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THE MEETINGHOUSE — BUILT IN 1829

HISTORY  
*of the*  
Town *of* Wentworth  
New Hampshire

*By*  
GEORGE F. PLUMMER

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GEORGE F. PLUMMER

Presented to  
James C. Merrill  
Haverhill Mass

Handwritten - 17.50

By.

Eugene Downing Selectman  
of Wentworth N. H.

May 11 1933

1218466

DEDICATED  
TO THE MEMORY OF MY  
FATHER, MOTHER AND SISTERS  
WHO IN DEATH AS IN LIFE  
REMAIN A PART OF  
WENTWORTH



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## BY WAY OF PREFACE

The writer desires at this time to make full acknowledgment of the very great assistance rendered by Dr. Peter L. Hoyt, as preserved in his manuscript history of "The First Hundred Years of Wentworth."

Credit should be given Dr. Hoyt for the articles on the "Cold Season of 1816," "Spotted Fever Epidemic," and "The Flood of 1856" in their entirety.

Much other valuable information has been derived from the Doctor's records, all of which is hereby gratefully credited to him.

Of the Wentworth residents, Mrs. Ellen Foster, Mr. Charles T. Gove and Mr. Harry M. Turner have made many and valuable contributions to this work. Mrs. Aurilla V. Butts contributed an excellent article on the "Church History." All have shown a fine spirit of helpfulness and coöperation for which due credit is hereby extended.



## INTRODUCTION

The town of Wentworth is located in the westerly portion of our ancient and historic state of New Hampshire. The town is usually referred to as being in the northern portion of the state, but as a geographical fact, its situation is not far from the center of the state on a north and south line. However, as the town by its history, traditions and physical features is allied to the northern rather than to the southern portions of our state, it may perhaps be as well to consider that it has been properly assigned to that portion of New Hampshire usually known as the "North Country."

Geologically considered, the region is extremely old. The oldest lands in North America, possibly the oldest on earth, are the Laurentian Hills just across the Canadian border, and it is certain the hills and mountains of northern New Hampshire are among the lands first lifted above the steaming waters of the ancient primeval sea. Our rocks and soils show very plainly that they have come down from the earliest geologic times, and that they have endured for untold ages. The "eternal hills" in this case becomes no mere figure of speech. While, therefore, the region is in one sense old beyond the power of the hu-

man mind to state in terms of years, or even to comprehend, it is also true that historically considered the story is a very different one, and of the races who may have roamed over the mountains and lived in the pleasant valleys of northern New England previous to the coming of the white men but little is actually known, and there is no reason to believe our slender store of reliable knowledge on these points will ever be materially increased.

It suffices to say that from the dawn of time until the period of the coming of our ancestors to the valley of the Merrimack, northern New Hampshire was a wilderness, buried for ages during the long glacial periods under sheets of ice and snow, and at other times possibly inhabited by some nomadic race of savages, who came and went, lived and died, and left no trace.

We will leave the matter of considering prehistoric periods to those better fitted to discuss the subject and confine this small effort to describing the events of the historic period which has elapsed since Europeans first explored this region, and, avoiding controversy or speculation, record only what are believed to be established facts, so far as such facts have come to the attention of the author.

## TOPOGRAPHY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

OF

### WENTWORTH, N. H.

The town of Wentworth lies pleasantly in a deep valley located in the southwesterly portion of the White Mountain section of the state. The Carr Range of mountains towers upon the easterly side of this valley. Smart's Mountain, together with the Black Hills, which lie to the south of Mount Cube, rise along the westerly border of the town. To the southward, the high hills of Dorchester and Groton serve to give the valley the appearance of a great basin.

The entire township lies within the limits of the area drained by Baker's River, the most northwesterly of all the tributaries of the Pemigewasset and hence of the Merrimack. This river, entering the town from Warren, flows first in a southerly and then in a southeasterly course to the Rumney line. The river receives a substantial addition to its volume of water in the course of its passage through the town from two large tributaries; namely, first the outlet from Baker's Pond, called the Pond Brook, at the village and later the turbulent stream known as the South Branch, which having its source in the high



hills of the town of Orange, flows northerly through Dorchester, draining nearly the whole of that town, a part of Groton, as well as the easterly slopes of Smart's Mountain, and after having crossed the southeasterly part of Wentworth, empties into the main river in the eastern part of the town and near the Rumney line. About half a mile below this junction, Baker's River passes into Rumney on its way to unite with the Pemigewasset at Plymouth Village.

Brooks both large and small are abundant in all parts of the town. Some of these brooks descend the steep mountain sides and abound in falls and rapids; there are yet other streams which wind, for more or less of their course, with sluggish current through the meadow lands. Among the larger of these brooks are Martin's Brook draining the northeasterly part of the town and the upper part of the East Side region.

The Mountain Brook, rightly named, fed largely by ice cold springs on the slopes of Carr's Mountain, flows south and reaches Baker River very near the Rumney line.

The "Tural" Brook drains a large part of Ellsworth Hill and after a descent in cascades and rapids for nearly half a mile, forming the well known Gove's Falls, reaches the river near the Bull's Eye. This brook is more often called locally the "Ellsworth Hill Brook."



The Atwell Hill Brook, with its branches, drains the easterly portion of Atwell Hill and the southerly slope of Beech Hill, then flowing southeasterly through the old Town Farm Intervale, reaches the channel of the river very near and a little to the north of the village.

In the south part of the town the Rocky Pond Brook flows from the pond of the same name to the South Branch.

These streams, together with the Pond Brook first mentioned, are perhaps the most notable of the minor streams; all of them so far mentioned have been used for mill purposes. The early saw and grist mills were built very largely on these brooks. Of small and in many cases nameless streamlets, there is an uncounted and almost unknown number. Springs are abundant, as is usual in any broken and mountainous region.

The general contour of the surface of the town is such that the drainage is excellent. There is water in profusion in all parts of the town but only a very few bogs or swamps, and these few are of small extent.

The winds of the town do not "sweep across the wild moor," except to a limited extent, the poet in composing the line above quoted having had some other and less favored locality in mind.

The lower Baker Pond, roughly a mile in length,

lies almost wholly in town; the Wentworth-Orford line crosses the pond very near the upper end.

Town Line Pond is on the Dorchester line and well up on the slopes of Smart's Mountain. This sheet of water is rather smaller than the lower Baker Pond and its area seems to be pretty evenly divided between Dorchester and Wentworth.

Rocky Pond is situated in the wilderness lying between the Black Hills and Smart's Mountain; it has a lonely and unromantic location in the heart of what was once a dense forest.

Lumbermen have taken away much of the forest. They have not removed the owls and wildcats, who find in this locality a congenial dwelling place.

The geographically minded will be interested to learn that the 72nd parallel of west longitude, in its course from the pole to the equator, cuts across the western part of Wentworth and it is believed crosses Rocky Pond near its upper or western end. The 44th parallel of north latitude crosses the state a few miles to the north of this point and near Lake Tarleton in Piermont.

The outstanding physical feature of the town is the deep valley of the Baker's River which occupies the entire central portion of the township. This valley extends from the northern border of the town southeasterly to Rumney line and includes within its limits

about all the arable land, and contains at the present time nearly the whole population of our small township. This valley also serves as the location of the only thoroughfares through the town. The old prehistoric Indian trail, the rude paths of the early explorers and first settlers, the "Old Cross Road," the main roads used for so long a period of years by the stage line, the line of railroad from Concord north to the Coos region, and finally our modern State Highway routes, follow closely the floor of the valley entirely through the township.

The Baker's River valley before the coming of the white men was the route taken by the Indians in their migrations between the Coos country and beyond, and the valley of the Merrimack. It was, in fact, their main and most travelled route through the north country and used for purposes of both peace and war. Abundant evidence that the Indians camped, lived, fished and hunted, fought and forayed through the valley exists in all parts of the town, being also amply supported by tradition as well as tangible relics of such occupation.

The entire area of the town was at the time of the first settlement densely forested. Spruce and hemlock grew on the hillsides and upon the slopes of the various mountains. Hard woods such as maple, red oak, ash, beech, birch and elm are abundant.

One feature of the early forests is worthy of special mention. The pines of the Baker's River valley were large and numerous. The first explorers of the region made frequent mention of the pines they saw along the way. It seems the best and largest of these pines were those of Wentworth. No finer stand of white pine timber ever grew perhaps, than the old growth pine of the valley lands of our town. Trees five feet through at the butt were not uncommon.\*

All the birds and animals common to the region are or have been plentiful. In the early days there were many moose. The first settlers seem to make more mention of the moose than of the deer. Beaver now extinct were once abundant. The so-called "Clark Meadow," back of Hooper Hill, is thought to be beaver dam land — at least in part. Bears have been in town from the first settlement to the present time. They annoyed the pioneers a good deal, killing the sheep and making havoc in the pig pens. There is no account of their ever harming a human being in this region. It is doubtful if there has been a wolf in town for the last hundred years.

Trout are plentiful in all the brooks and have been since the beginning. There are also trout in

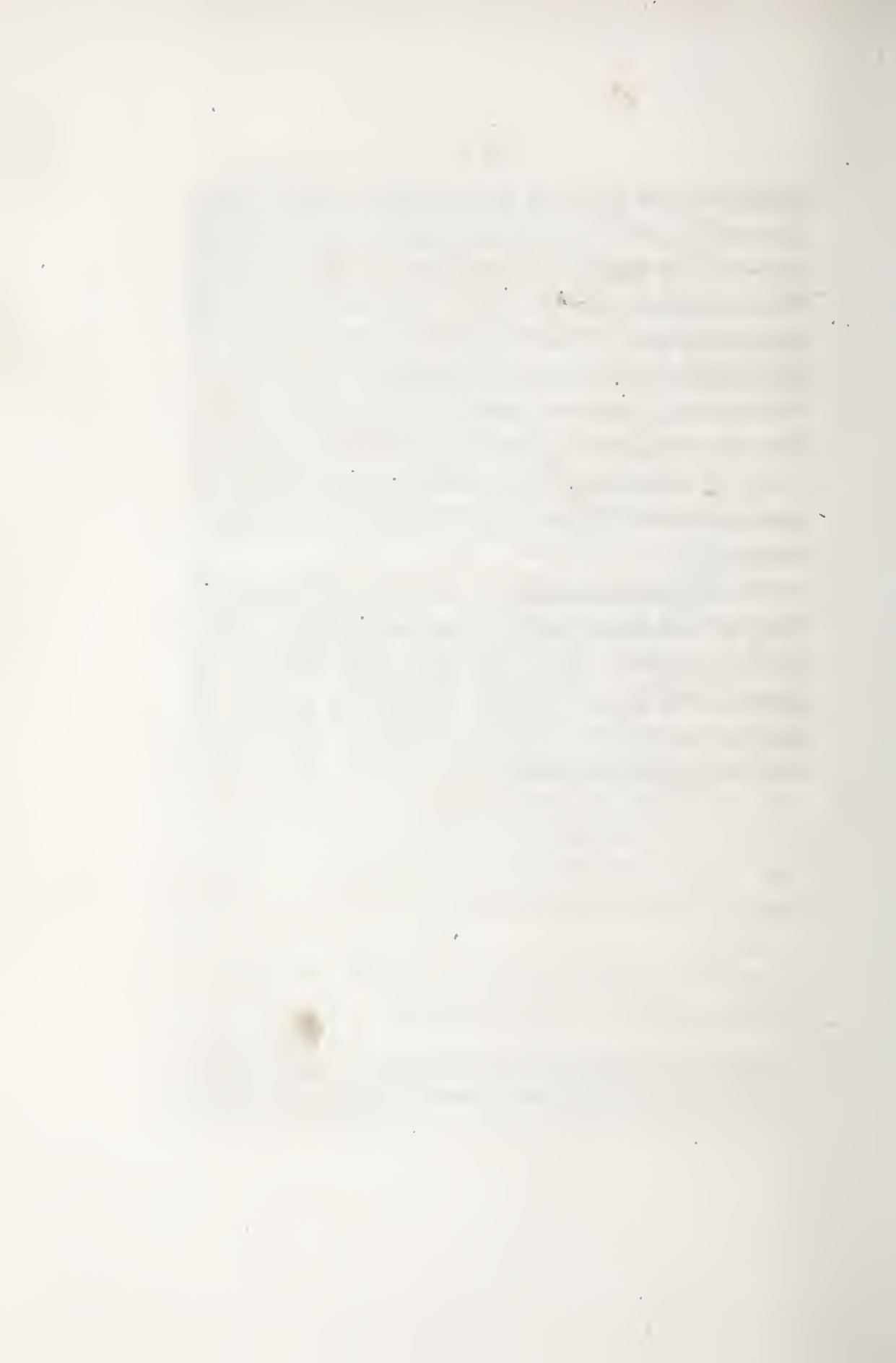
\* The stringers for a bridge across the Connecticut River were cut on the pine lands of the Buffalo Road. These stringers were ninety feet long, hewed four sides, and were 18 inches square at the top end. — *Benjamin Brown Statement.*



Baker's River and the large streams in the south part of the town. The splendid salmon that once were numerous in Baker's River are now seen no more. These salmon were plentiful in season before large dams were built in the Merrimack. They did not ascend Baker's River further than the falls at the village.

The township is roughly about six miles square. It is not, however, a perfect square, or the sides precisely six miles long. The northeasterly corner is extended over the top of Carr's Mountain forming an acute angle.

The original boundaries of the town have been very little altered since finally established in 1783 — and the name given the town when the charter was granted has lasted without thought of change. It perpetuates in our state the name and fame of the historic Wentworth race.



# THE NARRATIVE

## CHAPTER I

THE FIRST EXPLORERS — FRENCH AND INDIAN  
WARS, POWERS' EXPEDITION IN 1754 — THE  
WENTWORTHS — EARLY CHARTERS — CHARTER  
OF WENTWORTH — THE PROPRIETORS AND SOME  
OF THEIR DOINGS

### EARLY EXPLORATIONS

It is perhaps timely and proper at this point to dwell briefly on the first recorded visit of white men to the Baker's River valley, especially as this expedition was the first time, so far as any proof exists, that men of our race entered the limits of the region destined later to be known as the township of Wentworth.

A long continued war raged for a period of nearly a hundred years along the borders of the settlements in Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire and was waged between the settlers of those regions and the Indians to the north and west of them.

The conflict was a desperate contest waged relentlessly: it finally became a war of extermination, so far as it was possible to make it so, on both sides.

The Province of Massachusetts Bay paid at times during this conflict a bounty for Indian scalps.

We find; in the year 1709, the Indians raided the town of Deerfield, Mass.; the account of this bloody massacre can be read in any history of that period; it suffices here to say that one Thomas Baker, a young man of Deerfield, was taken captive at that time; he was led as a prisoner to Canada where he was held in captivity for a year or more. He was ransomed and allowed to return to his former home. He traveled on this journey in both directions through the valley of the Connecticut River, thus getting a degree of personal knowledge of the region which information he was later to put to practical use.

Baker enlisted in the service of Massachusetts. He became an officer and we find it recorded that early in the year 1712 Lieutenant Baker enlisted a company of thirty-three men for the purpose of making an attack on the scattered Indians in the upper part of the Connecticut valley.

This small company, with a friendly Indian as a guide, left Northampton, Mass., in April "as soon as the snow was gone." Traveling up the river valley, the party in about ten days reached the "Cowasuck" intervalles located in Haverhill and Newbury. Snow drifts still lay in places here while the distant mountains were white as winter.





CARR'S MOUNTAIN



Here the party turned back; they followed up the Oliverian, crossed the heights of Warren and descended by way of the Black Brook into a deep valley hemmed in by high and rugged mountains; they soon reached the banks of a clear and rapid stream flowing over a pebbly bottom and known to the Indians as the Asquamchumauke but which has since by common consent borne the name of its discoverer and first explorer, having for two hundred years been known as Baker's River.

The small party now descended the river following its westerly bank. As they proceeded, signs of Indians increased, and traveling with great caution they at length arrived on the lower reaches of the river. Perceiving that they were now in close proximity to the enemy they encamped without making a fire and ate a cold breakfast. Resuming their stealthy march they came in the forenoon to the village of the Pemigewasset Indians, located where now stands the northern part of the village of Plymouth.

The accounts of what then followed are somewhat varied and confused but this much appears to be certain.

Baker attacked the village and routed the inhabitants who, taken by surprise, were not prepared for conflict and being in no condition to give battle, they scattered into the surrounding woods. Baker's men

now proceeded to pillage and burn the wigwams: they then prepared to resume their journey without further delay. The Indians had now rallied and, assuming the offensive, they attacked Baker's party, who were now in full retreat down the right bank of the Pemigewasset River. The Indians hotly pursued as far as the present limits of the town of Bristol. Here they appear to have given up the fight and turned back, leaving Baker's company free to descend the river unmolested to Dunstable, which they reached in safety and without the loss of a man.

Baker promptly put in a claim for a bounty for one scalp they brought with them, and as they claimed to have killed several other Indians whose scalps they were unable to obtain, they were, after some haggling, allowed by the Governor and Council of Massachusetts\* twenty pounds as pay for two scalps and wages for the lieutenant and company from the 24th of March to the 16th of May, 1712.

The effect of this expedition was to break the power of the Pemigewasset tribe of Indians, and their fear of the white men caused them to migrate from the valley of the Asquamchumauke and join their brethren in the north, where they soon lost their identity as a separate tribe, becoming merged with the

\* See Journal, Massachusetts Legislature, 1712.

Aroosagunticook or St. Francis Indians, who ranged northern Vermont and parts of lower Canada.

Thus was Baker's River discovered and named by white men and the Indians driven from its valley, which saw them no more, except when small parties on their way to or from the English frontiers passed through the region following the ancient route of their people through the northern wilderness.

### FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR, POWERS EXPEDITION IN 1754

It does not properly fall within the scope of this work to write at length of the bloody conflicts which raged along the frontiers from 1689 to 1760 and which are known in our histories as the French and Indian Wars.

These wars were, as has been well said, the American phase of a European conflict, and the issue at stake was whether the French or the English would dominate on the continent of North America.

The struggle, lasting for about seventy-five years, with a few intervals of peace, reached a decision when the French army under Montcalm and the English forces commanded by Wolfe, stood face to face on the fields of Quebec on the memorable day in September, 1759,



“When the bloody die was cast  
on the Plains of Abraham.”

The result of the campaign was the death of both the illustrious generals and the defeat of the French army. Quebec City passed into the hands of the English and with it, the remainder of the French line of defense and offense which extended as far west as the Mississippi River, crumbled and fell. The King of France, by the treaty signed in 1763, ceded to England all his American possessions except Louisiana Territory.

The effect of this settlement was of supreme and far reaching importance to the English Colonists along the Atlantic seaboard as it deprived the Indians of all power to make strong resistance to those who were eagerly desirous of moving further into the interior and settling upon the land which the Red men looked upon as their own.

Henceforth the Indians, struggle as they might, could only delay but not avert the passing of their lands and hunting grounds, and the places that knew them once were soon to know them no more.

As long as they were assisted and abetted by the French Nation, the Indians had successfully held the English at bay along a line which ran through New Hampshire from the Connecticut River near Charlestown, thence easterly to the Merrimack River a little to the north of Concord and so on to near the

banks of the Kennebec River in Maine. But it was now obvious the line could be held by them no longer, so making the best terms with the English that they could, which justice compels us to say were usually hard and ungenerous ones, they now migrated from northern New Hampshire and most of Vermont, leaving the field clear for the pioneers who were only too anxious to settle and exploit the northern and western wilderness, development of which territory had been practically at a standstill for the best part of a hundred years.

These few words by way of explanation show, let us hope clearly, why no settlements had been attempted in northern New Hampshire previous to the year 1760 and why, beginning with that year, towns were granted rapidly, surveys made and settlements begun, an emigration from the older towns in the southern portion of the state ensued, that lasted in all its force until the War of the Revolution broke out, which materially dampened the ardor of our pioneers and nearly checked further developments during the period of that conflict.

The way was now clear, so far as danger from armed resistance was concerned, for the settlement of northern New Hampshire and Vermont over whose territory the provincial governors of New Hampshire then claimed jurisdiction.

One other exploring expedition through the valley of Baker's River is entitled to more than a passing notice, it being that expedition under the command of Capt. Peter Powers of Hollis, N. H., having for its objective the exploration and view of the "Cowass Country."

The company was assembled at Rumford (now Concord) and Captain Powers' journal states on the date of Saturday June 15, 1754:

"This day left Rumford and marched to Contoocook which is about eight miles, and here tarried all night."

Contoocook was the present Boscawen. The company continued to "tarry" at Contoocook until Monday, June 17, when they marched north along the river to the forks at Franklin, and then up the Pemigewasset about one mile and a half, and camped near the carrying place "and the whole of this day's march is thirteen miles."

On June 18 they marched over eight miles and detoured somewhat to a little above the mouth of Smith river "to the long carrying place and there camped."

On Wednesday June 19 the company made good progress and reached the Lower Intervalles of Plymouth and there camped. The entry for the next day is quoted below in full:—

"Thursday, June 20. We steered our course, one turn with another which were great turns, west-northwest about two miles



and a half, to the crotch or parting of the Pemigewasset River at Baker's River mouth, thence from the mouth of Baker's River, up said river, northwest by west six miles. This river is extraordinary crooked and good intervale. Thence up the river about two miles northwest and there we shot a moose, the sun about a half an hour high and then camped."

This camp was not far from the mouth of Stinson's Brook in the town of Rumney. As the entries for the next three days are of peculiar interest to residents of Wentworth, they are herewith inserted in full and in the captain's language.

"Friday, June 21. We steered up the said Baker's river with our canoes about five miles, as the river ran which was extraordinary crooked. In the after part of this day there was a great shower of haile and raine which prevented our proceeding any further and here left our canoes, for the water in the river was so shoal that we could not go with them any further."

(They were now in Wentworth and probably near the mouth of the South Branch as it is likely the water would accommodate their canoes as far as that point but not beyond.)

"Saturday, June 22. This morning was dark and cloudy weather but after ten of the clock it cleared off hot, and we marched up the river, near the Indian carrying place, from Baker's River to Connecticut River and there camped and could not go any further by reason of a great shower of rain which held almost all this afternoon."

(This camp was probably on or near the meadow now owned by Elmer Brown.)

"Sunday, June 23. This morning dark and cloudy weather and we marched up this river about one mile and came to the Indian carrying place and by reason of the dark weather we were obliged to follow the marked way that was marked by Major Lovewell and Captain Tolford and others, from Baker's River to Connecticut River and this days march was but about six miles and we camped between the two first Baker Ponds. And it came on a great storm of rain which prevented our marching any further: and on this days march we saw a considerable quantity of white pine timber and found it something large, fit for thirty-inch masts, as we judged. But before this days march we saw no white pine timber, that was very large on this Baker's River, but a great quantity of small white pine fit for boards and small masts. And on this river there is a great quantity of excellent intervale, from the beginning of it to the place where we left this river and it layeth of a pretty square proportion from one end to the other and back of the intervale there is a considerable quantity of large mountains."

As we have now traced the path followed by Powers and his companions through Wentworth and seen them safely encamped between the Baker Ponds, let us hope shielded from the copious showers of "raine and haile," we need not follow them farther on their journey except to say that they visited the "Cowass Intervales," going as far north as Lancaster. Here they found that the men "had almost worn out their shoes" and they decided not to attempt any further northern exploration, but retraced their course and reached Rumford in safety.

It is interesting to note the size of the great pines of Wentworth impressed Powers and his men, and

those familiar with the meanderings of Baker's River can readily believe the party found it as they state, "extraordinary crooked." Powers also made a note of the fertile intervale land along the banks of the river and makes allusion to the "considerable quantity of large mountains" in the background. All in all, his description of the valley is an excellent one and does much credit to the powers of observation and narration possessed by our worthy captain, Peter Powers.

## BENNING WENTWORTH'S EARLY CHARTERS

During the most of the Provincial history of New Hampshire, the seat of government was located at Portsmouth, the only seaport and largest and most substantial town in the Province. Here in the year 1741, Benning Wentworth was commissioned by George the Second, King of England, as Governor of the royal Province of New Hampshire.

The family of Wentworth had for many years held a high if not the highest rank among the ruling families of the Province. Benning was the son of John Wentworth, the Lieutenant Governor of New Hampshire from 1717 to 1730, and a graduate of Harvard College. His career was long, active and distinguished,

according to one historian at least "during his administration New Hampshire advanced rapidly in wealth and prosperity. But not as fast as the Governor did. He laid heavy tribute on the Province and exacted heavy fees for grants of land."

A partial list of the townships granted by Governor Benning Wentworth is of interest, indicating plainly that a new era in the development of the state had now set in, and also that our good Governor was not only willing but even desirous of a chance to grant lands and issue charters for towns, as witness the following:

\* In 1761, Governor Wentworth granted no less than sixty townships on the western side and eighteen townships on the eastern side of the Connecticut River. The whole number of his grants on the western side of the river amounted to one hundred and thirty eight. In each, the Governor reserved a tract of five hundred acres for himself, clear of all fees and charges.

But to resume, we find that in 1761 or '62, charters were granted to Canaan, Enfield, Lebanon, Hanover, Lyme, Orford, Bath, Lyman and Holderness also Cockermouth or Groton; in 1763 to Lisbon (under the name of Concord), Lancaster, Warren (this charter was forfeited), Haverhill, Woodstock and Plymouth; in 1764 to Benton (then called Coventry), Lincoln, Franconia and Piermont; in 1765 to Conway and

\*McClintock's History, New Hampshire



Center Harbor; in 1766 to Bridgewater and Wentworth; in 1767 to Rumney (whose first grant in 1761, was forfeited) and Campton; in 1769 to Trecothick (now Ellsworth); in 1772 to Dorchester, whose two previous charters failed of success.

The above list will serve to show with what avidity the settlers, and possibly a few land grabbers also, were moving into, or at least acquiring title to land in this heretofore unsettled and undeveloped region.

Many settlers from western Massachusetts and Connecticut came up the Connecticut River and occupied the towns in that beautiful and fertile valley.

The Baker's River region was settled generally by those who came from the first settled part of the state and a few from Massachusetts. Only the boldest and hardiest as a rule essayed to become the pioneers of the wilderness and it is probably literally true that only the hardiest could survive in such a struggle.

## THE CHARTER

We have now arrived at the interesting period when the history of Wentworth as an organized township may be said to begin.

In the year 1766 our worthy Governor Wentworth granted the township bounded on the north by Warren, east by Rumney, south by Dorchester and west

by Orford, to be known as the town of Wentworth. Having given the town his own name, he showed further interest in it by reserving for his own benefit a tract of 500 acres in the northwest corner of the plan of the town.

This was marked "B W" on the plan and for many years was known as the Governor's Reservation.

The Charter is an interesting and important document, as it is the starting point, at which the history of the town begins, as well as the foundation upon which rests the original title to all the land in town. It deserves insertion in full, and runs as follows:

[L.S.]

#### CHARTER

Province of New Hampshire, George the Third, By The Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc. To all peoples to whom these presents shall come, Greeting, Know Ye, that we of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, for the due encouragement and settling a new plantation within our sd Province, by and with the advice of our trusted and well-beloved Benning Wentworth, Esq., our governor and commander-in-chief of the sd Province of New Hampshire in New England, and all our council of the sd Province. Have under the conditions and reservations hereinafter made, give and granted and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors do give and grant in equal shares unto our loving subjects; inhabitants of our sd Province of New Hampshire and our other governments, and to their heirs and assigns forever whose names are entered on this grant, to be divided to and among them into sixty-six equal shares, all that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being within our sd



Province of N. H. containing by admeasurement 23,040 acres, which tract is to contain 6 miles square and no more, out of which an allowance is to be made for highways and unimprovable lands by rocks, ponds, mountains and rivers. 1040 acres free agreeably to a plan and survey thereof made by our sd Governor's order and returned unto the secretary's office and hereunto annexed. Butted and bounded as follows. Viz. Beginning at the N. East corner of Orford thence S. 45° West 6 miles to the S. East corner thereof which is also the N. West corner of Dorchester; thence running south about 61° East 6 miles by Dorchester to the N. West corner of Cockermouth which is also the S. West corner of Rumney; thence N. 45° E. 6 miles by Rumney extending to the S. East corner of Warren; thence N. 59° West by Warren to the bounds began at. And that the same be and hereby is incorporated into a township by the name of Wentworth and the inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit the sd Township, I hereby declare enfranchised with and entitled to all and every the privileges, and immunities that the other towns within our Province have most exercised and enjoyed.

And further that the sd Town as soon as there shall be fifty families resident and settled therein shall have the liberty of holding two fairs, one of which shall be held on the ——— and the other on the ——— annually. Which Fairs are not to continue longer than the respective ——— following the sd ———.

And that as soon as the said Town shall consist of fifty families a market may be opened and kept one or more days in each week, as may be thought most advantageous to the inhabitants.

Also that the first meeting for the choosing of Town officers, agreeable to the laws of our sd Province, shall be held on the second Tuesday of December, next which sd meeting shall be made notified by John Page, Esq., who is hereby also appointed moderator of sd first meeting; which he is to notify & govern agreeable to the Laws and Customs of our sd Province.

And that the annual meeting foreverhereafter, for the choosing of such officers for the sd town shall be on the third Tuesday of March annually.

To Have And To Hold the said tract of land as above expressed, together with all privileges and appurtenances to them and their respective heirs and assigns forever, upon the following terms and conditions. Viz.

First. That every grantee, his heirs or assigns shall plant and cultivate five acres of land, within the term of five years, for every fifty acres contained in his or their share or proportion of land in sd township, and continue to improve and settle the same by additional cultivation on penalty of forfeiture of his grant or share in sd township and of its reverting to us, our heirs and successors to be by us or them regranted to such of our subjects as shall effectually settle and cultivate the same.

Second. That all white or other pine trees within the sd township satisfactory for masting our Royal Navy be carefully preserved for that use and not to be cut or felled without our special license for so doing first had and obtained upon the penalty of forfeiture of the land of such grantee, his heirs and assigns to us, our heirs and successors, as well as being subject to the penalty of any act or acts of Parliament that now are or shall be enacted.

Third. That before any division of lands be made to and among the grantees, a tract of land as near the center of the said township as the land will admit of, shall be reserved and marked out for town lots, one of which shall be allotted to each grantee of the contents of one acre.

Fourth. Yielding and paying therefor to us, our heirs and successors for the space of ten years, to be computed from the date hereof, the rate of one ear of Indian Corn only on the 25th day of December annually. As lawfully demanded, the first payment to be made on the 25th of December 1767.

Fifth. Each prospective settler or inhabitant shall yield and pay unto us, our heirs, and successors, yearly and every year forever from and after the expiration of ten years from the above sd 25th of December, viz. On the 25th of December which will be in the year of our Lord 1777, one shilling, proclamation money, for every one hundred acres he so owns, settles or possesses and

all in proportion for a greater or lessor tract of the sd land, which money shall be paid by the respective persons above said, their heirs and assigns in our Council Chamber in Portsmouth or to such officer or officers as shall be appointed to receive the same, and this is to be in lieu of all other rents or survices whatsoever.

In testimony whereof we have caused the seal of our sd Province to be hereunto affixed. Witnessing, Benning Wentworth, Esq., our Governor and Commander-in-chief of our sd Province. The first day of November in the year of our Lord Christ 1766, and in the seventh year of our reign, by his Excellency's command, with advice of council.

T. ATKINSON, JR., *Secretary*.

B. WENTWORTH.

The names of the sixty grantees or proprietors were endorsed on the back of the original charter.

The town of Wentworth was now established, at least on paper, and launched upon the turbulent tides of the sea of time; we will now endeavor to trace its course so far as we may be able to do so, from the year 1766 to the present time.

## THE PROPRIETORS AND THEIR DOINGS

The grantees of Wentworth were sixty in number; they practically all of them lived in Salisbury, Mass., and the town of Hampton, N. H., which then included Seabrook, Hampton Falls and North Hampton. John Page of Salisbury was the first grantee named in the charter; only two of the grantees ever came to live in Wentworth; they were Ephraim and Enoch

Page, sons of John Page. Most of the other grantees probably never saw the town or any part of it; several of the proprietors of Wentworth were also among the proprietors of Warren, notably Phillips White, who was both kind and liberal to the early settlers during the years they were struggling for a foothold in the wilderness.

The proprietors seem to have been on the whole, a fair dealing company who did as much to promote the welfare of the settlement and insure the comfort of the settlers, as their circumstances would allow.

It does not appear that the proprietors were ever greatly enriched by their venture. It is hard to understand how they could ever have received a new dollar for an old one; they had much trouble in complying with the conditions of the charter and were under a heavy expense during the first ten years or more after the charter was granted.

They early voted that free drinks should be furnished to those of the proprietors who attended the meetings of the corporation.

This appears to be about the only salary they ever did receive, and it was at times a long while between meetings.

A list of the proprietors is of interest and is printed below: the reader will note that of the sixty men, ten bore the name of Page.



## NAMES OF THE GRANTEES OF WENTWORTH

|                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| John Page, Esq.                 | Samuel Palmer                      |
| Johnathan Greeley, Esq.         | Fred <sup>k</sup> . Batchelder     |
| Jacob Bailey, Esq.              | Samuel Dudley                      |
| Abel Davis                      | Jacob Currier                      |
| Nathl. Currier                  | Jacob Hook, Esq.                   |
| Ebenezer Page                   | Dyer Hook                          |
| Samuel Page                     | Capt. Thomas Elkins                |
| Peter Russel                    | Wm. Parker Jr., Esq.               |
| Rev. Sam'l Webster              | Daniel Fogg                        |
| Joseph Page                     | Stephen Scales                     |
| William Hackett                 | Joseph Greeley                     |
| Samuel Stevens                  | Rev. Jeremiah Fogg                 |
| Henry Morrill                   | Nathaniel Greely                   |
| John Page                       | Col. Ebenezer Stevens              |
| Ephraim Page                    | Ebenezer Stevens, Jr.              |
| Johnathan Evens                 | Phillips White                     |
| Winthrop True                   | John White                         |
| Elijah True                     | Parker Cooper                      |
| Jacob Stevens                   | Isaac Brown                        |
| David Greeley                   | William White                      |
| Stephen Edmons                  | John Colman                        |
| Moses Page                      | Joseph Eastman, Jr.                |
| David Evans                     | Jacob Gale                         |
| Enoch Page                      | Capt. Nath <sup>1</sup> Batchelder |
| William True                    | Eliphalet Coffin                   |
| Samuel Page, Jr.                | Lt. Nathan Batchelder              |
| Johnathan Page                  | Col. Marsh                         |
| Theophilus Stevens              | Josiah Bartlett, Jr.               |
| Thomas True                     | Col. Atkinson                      |
| Jon <sup>a</sup> . Greeley, Jr. | Capt. Thos. Masters                |

On March 17, 1767 the proprietors voted to elect a committee to survey the boundaries of the town and divide it into lots.

Col. Jona. Greeley was "empowered to hire a surveyor to go with said committee and run out the lines." Also they were to "lay out a hundred-acre lot to each original proprietor after the boundaries of the town had been fixed."

Mr. Benjamin Loud was employed as engineer.

The surveying party consisted of Samuel Page, Joseph Eastman, Jacob Morrill, Abraham Morrill, Samuel Greeley and Frye Bailey, in addition to the surveyor. They proceeded to Wentworth and in fourteen days established what they supposed to be the boundaries of the town and also laid out sixty-eight one-hundred-acre lots, one for each of the sixty original grantees, the remainder being for public purposes, such as churches and school. This is what is called the first division of lots in town and was made in the fall of the year 1767.

The second division of lots was run out in the year 1770 and like the first, was drawn to the right of each of the original proprietors.

It may be in order here to add the third division of lots was laid out in June, 1794, and allotted to the several proprietors: Jotham Cummings was the surveyor at this time.

We shall see later that the town boundaries were afterwards resurveyed and materially altered in places, especially the Warren line.



The proprietors also voted to "clear out" some roads through the town and also in order to encourage the settlement, they decided to build a suitable saw mill on the Pond Brook, thus providing a place where the settlers could obtain some boards.

This mill was built in 1769 or 1770 by William Hackett and Joseph Page of Salisbury, Mass.; the proprietors of Warren joined with those of Wentworth in this enterprise. The builders of the mill received a bounty of thirty pounds for their services.

This mill stood across the road and nearly in front of the Franklin Eaton house, where the main channel of the stream once ran, there being a steep ledge and high fall at that point, and here on this site, turned the first mill wheel in Wentworth.

In a year or two a makeshift grist mill was added but did not prove to be much of a success; it lasted but a few years and was swept away by a flood; there is not much evidence to show that this grist mill was of much service to the settlers.

The proprietors were now anxious to get some settlers into the town: the terms of the charter required settlement to be made and a certain amount of land to be cleared and tilled inside of five years. This was not forthcoming and anxiety was felt lest the charter might be forfeited.

They now began in earnest to promote the settle-

ment of the town, offering bounties to those who would go at once.

The proprietors became so fearful lest the charter might be forfeited, they made petition to the Governor for an extension of time and a short reprieve was allowed them.

As a result of their efforts, one man at least promised he would go in the year 1769 and settle in town; but he appears to have missed his connections, for up to date he has not been reported as having arrived.

## CHAPTER II—1770–1790

THE SETTLEMENT AND AN ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE  
EARLIEST SETTLERS — ORGANIZATION OF THE  
TOWN AND FIRST TOWN MEETING — THE FIRST  
RECORDED INVENTORY — FIRST CENSUS —  
CLOSE OF THE PIONEER PERIOD

### THE SETTLEMENT AND AN ACCOUNT OF THE EARLIEST SETTLERS

With the coming of the spring of 1770, actual settlement of the town began, as it is known three families arrived during that season. There is nothing in the records to show with certainty which one of these came first. But it is extremely probable one DAVID MAXFIELD was the first to arrive; he settled on what was formerly known as the White farm; this land was later owned by Col. Joseph Savage and Richard Pillsbury and now by Harry Turner. But very little is known of Maxfield and his stay in town was brief as he left after a stay of two or three years.

ABEL DAVIS was the next to arrive. In the Gove Bible, it is recorded that "Abel Davis with his wife Mary, was the second family to settle in Wentworth."

Abel Davis cleared a small piece of land and built

a log house on the meadow formerly owned by Amos Rollins and now by David N. Eaton. This house was west of the present line of railroad and not far from the river. Davis remained in town but a few years, removing to Vermont.

The third arrival was EPHRAIM LUND, who settled on the East Side and built a log house where the present school house now stands. Lund lived in town five or six years and then removed to Warren, where he afterwards lived as one of the pioneers of that town, and died at an advanced age, leaving descendants in Warren.

If we are to continue to mention the families in the order in which it is believed they arrived in town, we should now speak of William Heath, who came late in 1770 or very early in 1771.

The record of the first birth recorded in town read as follows: "Mary Heath, daughter of William and Lydia Heath, born March, 1, 1771."

Heath settled and built a log house about on the spot where Gove's cider mill now stands. He also cleared a few acres of land near his house but does not appear to ever have done much farming. He was a great hunter and shot many moose, killing six at one time single handed in a yard over towards Mt. Cube. He served in the Revolutionary Army; after he came back from the war, the tradition is, he drew a barrel of

rum up from Concord on a hand sled and opened a public house: thus he became the first hotel keeper of the town and it is said was a very good customer at his own bar. He finally sold his place to Capt. Ebenezer Gove in 1787 and moved out of town.

The proprietors were obliged to assist the first settlers; in 1771 they bought a horse and loaned it to them jointly "on account of the great distance to a gristmill."

Also the same year they loaned Abel Davis a cow; this was the first cow ever driven to town.

They also helped them to get some food. The proprietors voted to "allow Phillips White, 1 pound, 7 shillings for supplies furnished David Maxfield and 2 pounds for what he furnished Abel Davis in 1771."

They further "voted to give Lund, 1 pound 10 shillings, for corn he had to buy."

Phillips White was a sort of Santa Claus to the pioneers of Wentworth and Warren and for many years proved himself a very present help in time of trouble.

About the year 1772, ISAAC CLIFFORD moved from Rumney and settled first on the Old Cross Road near what later became Smart's Mill yard lot.

A child of Mr. Clifford's died in the year 1773; this was the first death to occur in town. It was buried near a great rock some distance from the river bank;



the river later changed its course and washed away all vestiges of the grave and that which it contained.

After living several years on this spot, Clifford exchanged places with Joseph Cooper, who lived where Ben B. Foster does now, and remained there until he removed to the East Side, where he died, leaving numerous descendants.

About the year 1790 Clifford built a grist mill on the South Branch not far from his buildings: it never did much business and after having been damaged by freshets, was finally abandoned.

The hill on the East Side known as Clifford Hill was so named for this family, many of this race having lived on or in the vicinity of this hill.

EPHRAIM PAGE, one of the proprietors and son of John Page, Esq., the first grantee named in the charter, and his wife, who was Hannah Currier, removed to Wentworth from Salisbury, Mass., in the summer of 1773, with his family of ten children; three more children were born to them after they arrived in town, making thirteen in all. Their son Samuel, born in October 1773, is believed to have been the first boy born in the town.

Mr. Page settled on the land which later was bought and used by the town as a town farm, the place having been held continuously by the family until sold by his grandson, James K. Page in 1853 to



the town; the farm is now owned by Clarence Eaton who is descended on his mother's side from the original settler.

Ephraim Page died November 4, 1802; he with his wife and many of their descendants are buried at the village.

SIMEON SMITH, a native of Kensington, N. H., located on Clifford Hill on the upper East Side in either 1772 or 1773, settling on the farm owned in after years by Rawson Clifford and still later by Van Merrill. Smith received the title to his land from the proprietors of Warren and supposed he was a citizen of that town, holding town office there.

Warren Smith his son, born October 26, 1773, received his name on account of being born in Warren, which he was not.

When the town lines were resurveyed, Smith found his farm was really in Wentworth: according to the Warren History, Simeon Smith served in the Revolutionary Army, being stationed on the northern frontier or the Upper Coos region.

REUBEN WHITCHER came from Chester, N. H., in 1774, bringing his son Henry, a child only six weeks old, the most of the way on his back. His wife and the household effects were transported on the back of a horse. Captain Whitcher, as he was usually called, had been in town most of the time for two years pre-

vious to this, in the employ of Phillips White; he had built for White's account, in 1772, the first frame house in town, of which more will be told. At that time he was offered the land afterwards sold to John Aiken, which included also the mill privilege at the village, for the equivalent of sixty dollars; he was then of the opinion he would not accept from the proprietors, the whole township as a gift.

He subsequently changed his mind, however, for coming here in 1774 with his little family he lived first in the house he framed and helped build for White. He lived there until 1783, when he moved to the south part of the town to what was later known as the Thayer place, or in that vicinity. He was the third settler in that part of the town and lived on this place the remainder of his life. The two other settlers who had preceded Captain Whitcher in the south part were William Cotton, on the Clark place, so-called, near the foot of Hooper Hill, and Experience Cross, on what is known as the "Fisk" or Samuel B. Burnham place. William Cotton settled the Clark farm probably as early as 1775 and was no doubt the first in that part of the town.

Benjamin Cotton, a brother of William, had already worked in town for Judge White; he enlisted in the Revolutionary Army and after the war closed he joined his brother on the farm.



VALLEY OF THE SOUTH BRANCH — SMART'S MOUNTAIN IN THE BACKGROUND



In 1775 JOHN AIKEN with his son John, Jr., came from Chester, N. H., (then known as Old Chester in order to distinguish it from the township of New Chester now Hill).

John Aiken with his family and Samuel Aiken lived first in a log house about where the land is now buried with sand and gravel near Eugene Brown's; after some years he built a frame house nearly across the road from the present town hall and lived there until his death in 1793. The Aiken property included the mill site on Baker's River at the village bridge. John Aiken was a miller and millwright by profession. He built at the falls what was known for many years as Aiken's Mills, probably as early as the year of 1776.

This was the first practical business grist mill in town; the Hackett mill built some five years earlier, was never capable of doing much.

John Aiken, the pioneer, was no doubt of Scotch descent and a man of character and ability. He proved to be a very valuable acquisition to the new settlement.

The first town meeting, which was in 1779, was held at his house; at that meeting he was elected town clerk and also a selectman. He continued to hold one or both of these offices the most of the time for the next twelve years and more.



He wrote a neat, legible hand and did most of the writing apparently for the whole settlement. He made deeds and other legal papers. Some of his town accounts, still in existence, show very plainly that he was a careful, painstaking man who had received better than an average education. He was probably one of the oldest of the original settlers and he was also one of the first who died. His death took place in 1793, at an advanced age.

The last representative of the family in town was Mark L. Aiken, whose death, in his eightieth year, occurred March 5, 1904, when the Aiken name became extinct in Wentworth.

John Aiken, Jr., married Anna Weeks in 1786. He built him a house on the site of the one now owned by Selectman Charles H. Brown. He died there December 8, 1825.

About the year 1775 the first settlement was made on Ellsworth Hill by JOSEPH SMITH, who located upon the farm lately (1857) occupied by Oliver Ellsworth.

Joseph Smith's son Benjamin went into the army in 1780 from Wentworth, "as a soldier for the town" and served on the northern frontier: evidently a man was drafted from the town at the time young Smith went to war.

HUGH McCLELLAN and family settled upon Ells-



worth Hill near where Joseph Smith was located, probably in 1776.

The McClellan family at a later period moved down from the hill and lived upon the place now owned by Mr. Zack Rolfe and are believed to have been the original settlers upon that land.

Mrs. Jane McClellan, wife of Hugh, outlived her husband many years and died October 14, 1821, aged 101 years and some months.

"Grammy McClellan," as she was usually called, was an expert at spinning and weaving; when she was more than 100 years of age, a caller found her beside her little flax wheel, drawing out the fine even threads, soft and almost silky in their texture.

The McClellan family belonged to the so-called Scotch-Irish race who have made a great contribution to the history of our state.

Beyond a doubt the Aikens belonged to the same stock.

About this same year of 1776 JOHN TURAL settled and built a house on Ellsworth Hill. He was located really about as much on Sanders as Ellsworth Hill, being upon the farm where Ezekiel Davis now (1857) lives.

Tural remained some twenty years in town. The large brook running through his land is called on old maps, the Tural Brook and received its name from him.

Before 1780 SAMUEL HOOPER made a beginning on what has ever since borne the name of Hooper Hill.

He was the founder in town of the Hooper family and his name is still attached to the locality where he first settled, lived and died.

As early as 1775, a settlement was made on the Governor's Reservation on Wentworth Hill as it was then usually called; it is now known as Atwell Hill.

EDWARD GREEN was the first man to locate in that region; he was shortly followed by EXPERIENCE CROSS who soon moved into the south part of the town; and a little later by DANIEL CLARK and WILLIAM SIMPSON. All these places were on the top of the hill and near what was later the farm of Ebenezer Atwell.

COLONEL SIMPSON, as he was called, built on this hill a large log house two stories high; it was the type of building known in those days as a block house and appears to have been the only such building ever built in the town.

Simpson's name does not appear in the 1783 tax list but he was listed by Dr. Hoyt as shown above.

MAJOR ENOCH PAGE came from Salisbury, Mass., and settled his family in town near where John P. Currier now lives, in the year of 1776 or 1777. Previously to this, he had spent much time in town as agent for the proprietors, one of which he was. His

brother, Ephraim Page, lived nearly opposite, on the other side of the river.

Major Page deserves much more than a passing notice. He was a practical land surveyor and had much to do with dividing and allotting the different parcels and lots of land in the town; he was looked upon as the supreme authority upon such matters as long as he lived. He presided at the first town meeting and many more; he was the first citizen of Wentworth to sit in the Legislature; in 1783 he was appointed Associate Justice of the court of Common Pleas for the County of Grafton, remaining on the bench for several years. He took a deep interest in town affairs and did his utmost to assist in its settlement and aid in its development. The first tax list ever recorded was in 1783; at that time Major Page had the largest taxable estate in town. He was of a kind and liberal disposition and apparently served others better than himself.

It adds a touch of bitterness to find that this man, who deserves far more than any other individual to be respected as the father of the town, became destitute in his declining years, being supported as a pauper and now lies in the village cemetery in an unmarked grave,

“Alone and unnoticed.”

Major Page did not live many years on the East Side but moved into the region above the village and

lying between the Brook Road and the Atwell Hill Road. Here were also settled before the year 1795, Johnathan and Benjamin Hidden and John Munn. A tract in that locality is known yet as the Munn pasture. No one has lived on the land in this region within the memory of any person now living; to look at it today, few would suspect that any one ever had lived there. Major Page died in a house which stood about where Dr. Hoyt's does now, as did his son, Enoch, Jr.

John Gove came from England at a very early period and died in Charlestown, Mass., in 1648. He had a son, Edward, who married Hannah Titcomb; they lived in Salisbury, Mass., and Hampton, N. H., and reared a large family.

Capt. Ebenezer Gove, the founder in Wentworth of our Gove family, was a descendent of Edward and Hannah (Titcomb) Gove and born in 1755. He was more or less closely associated with the family of Enoch Page in Salisbury. He had spent much time in town as an assistant to Mr. Page and others engaged in running lines and clearing out roads before 1776, finally coming as a settler at the same time that Enoch Page came with his family.

In the year 1777 he married a daughter of Major Page and lived either with or near his father-in-law until 1787.



This marriage in 1777 was the first one in town, so far as any record exists. 1248166

His wife with their infant child died in the year following their marriage and are buried on the East Side.

In 1780 he married Mary Davis, the daughter of Abel Davis, the pioneer of 1770. Captain Gove served an enlistment in the Army during the Revolution, his service being on the northern frontier; his title of Captain, however, was of the militia.

In 1787 Captain Gove bought of William Heath the farm now owned by his great grandson, Charles T. Gove, and moved there with his family. He was a very active and useful citizen and contributed much to the welfare and comfort of the townspeople. He died at an advanced age and is buried with many of his descendants in the village cemetery.

RICHARD PILLSBURY came from Chester in or near the year 1778 with his three grown-up sons, Josiah, Merrill and Richard, Jr. They located on the East Side on what has ever since been known as the Pillsbury place, it being in part at least the same land now owned and occupied by his descendant, Miss Mary Ellen Pillsbury.

A fatality seemed to follow the name of Richard in this family.

Richard, Sr., was breaking out roads in the winter



of 1782, was overcome by the cold and later found buried in the snow dead and frozen; his body was guarded by his faithful dog until removed by members of his own family.

Richard, Jr., removed to Warren and was killed there by a falling tree.

Merrill Pillsbury settled on the opposite side of the river on land since owned by John Marston.

Samuel Hodge, whose name is spelled "Hodg" on the old records, came probably in 1778; he was located very near the point where Baker's River crosses the town line and enters Rumney.

Hodge was drowned in the river while trying to kill some ducks, probably in 1780 as the record shows his tax was abated for that year and he was not again mentioned.

His widow was left in a rather desperate condition with several small children. She soon married Thomas Todd for her second husband and they continued to live in about the same place.

From some of the stories that have been told of Todd, it seems reasonable to believe the last estate of this resolute woman was worse than her first.

The first clearing on the Kezer place, so called, was made in 1778 by Ephraim True.

In the year 1784 LEMUEL KEZER moved to town and bought the place which was then on the main road through town. He opened here a public house

called for many years the "Kezer Tavern Stand." "Grandsir Kezer," as he was called in later years, was a very eccentric and peculiar man, original, shrewd and indifferent apparently to either praise or blame. Some of the anecdotes in regard to his whimsical trades and jokes have persisted to this day. The original buildings were burned, the barns in 1819, the house in 1838. The place in later years was known as the Charles Merrill place.

PETER STEVENS moved to town from Chester, N. H., in the spring of 1782. He settled where Lois Stevens lived for many years, on the East Side at the foot of Clifford Hill.

Deacon Stevens, as he was called, was a blacksmith and for a long time the only one in town or in the vicinity; as such, he was a great help to the settlement. Stevens was induced to settle here by Major Enoch Page on the promise of 100 acres of land at his own price. The tradition is, he later paid the major one cow for the above land.

About 1782 SAMUEL WOOSTER settled on what was later known as the "Old Stuart place." Wooster was one of the leaders in the early days. He was unfortunately killed while working in the woods in 1789. His widow married Alexander Stuart; they kept the farm and it received its name from Stuart; he died about 1835.

Perhaps the next settler to deserve mention is

AARON PUTNEY; he came from the Montolina district of the town of Dunbarton in 1783 and settled very near the Warren line on the place since owned by Samuel Colby: his widow died here in 1846 at the age of 82 years.

ASA PUTNEY came also from Dunbarton probably in the same year of 1783 and settled on the "Lyster place" so-called, now owned by the Goves. Asa Putney was born on the frontier, never lived anywhere else and never wanted to; he was a hardy and powerful man and famous hunter; the tradition is, he killed 18 bears in one fall, mostly around the Gove's ledge region. He moved in 1790 to what was later the David Sanders place on Sanders Hill. He was the first settler on that hill. Perhaps Asa Putney deserves to be called the Nimrod of Wentworth.

It will be hardly possible to mention even by name, all the settlers as they arrived henceforth, but mention will be made of some who founded in the town, families that have been long connected with the town's history, or otherwise of more than usual influence or importance.

GEN. ABSALOM PETERS was born in Hebron, Conn., March 25, 1754. He was intended for a profession and graduated from Dartmouth College, class of 1780. Soon after leaving college he entered the Army. He served as aide to General Bailey, who was in command

of the troops stationed around Newbury, Vt., to repel an invasion from the north, of which the colonists were in great dread.

At the close of the war, General Peters settled on the so-called Howard farm on Atwell Hill; for nearly forty years he was a prominent figure in town affairs, and a leading citizen. His college education and army service gave him great prestige in the militia of the period. He was major and later Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of the old 13th Militia Regiment; finally in 1806, he was commissioned Brigadier General, Sixth Brigade, which then included about all of northern New Hampshire along the valley of the Connecticut River. He held this high position for some years.

General Peters, as he was always entitled, prospered in town and reared a large family; many of his descendants have been able and distinguished as scholars, teachers and in the professions. He left town about the year 1820 and died in New York, March 29, 1840.

General Peters' picture, taken in old age, shows him to have been apparently a somewhat fleshy man of about medium height, a rather wide forehead, with a full, round, kindly face, smooth shaven.

Mrs. Peters died in 1819 and is buried at Wentworth in the Village Cemetery.



SAMUEL ELLSWORTH, with his stalwart family of six sons and several daughters, came to town in 1789. He settled on the hill destined later to be the home of many of his descendants, which for a hundred years or more has been called Ellsworth Hill.

He settled on the farm later owned by his son, Aaron, and at a later period by Oliver Ellsworth.

The family became in time very numerous; for years they led all other names in town in regard to either voters or taxpayers of the same name. Generally speaking, the Ellsworths were heavy, broad-shouldered, stocky men and an industrious, law-abiding race; many of the heavy bank walls in and around the village are a monument to their industry, as also is the massive stone wall around the town pound which was built for the town by the Ellsworths.

ELDER SAMUEL CURRIER moved into the town about 1782. He settled on the land on the East Side of the river which has ever since been occupied by his descendants.

Elder Currier was an ordained minister of the Baptist faith and was beyond any doubt the first minister who ever lived in town.

There is no reason to believe Elder Currier ever preached in town, except perhaps occasionally. After the first meetinghouse was built in 1790, he would probably have been regularly installed as the town's



minister, but for the fact there was then as now, religious intolerance and the Congregationalists and others objected to paying towards the support of a Baptist clergyman.

Elder Currier died May 5, 1802, age 56. His wife Mary died April 13, 1801, age 54.

Their son Aaron Currier lived and had a tannery about where John P. Currier now lives; the place where the old tan pits were located, still shows in the ground near the present buildings.

JOB EATON moved to Wentworth from Plaistow, N. H., in the year 1785. He settled on the place known as the old Eaton farm, owned recently (1856) by Jesse Stetson.

A few years later, probably in 1792, Moses Eaton, a brother of Job, came to town and located on the road leading to Atwell Hill: this place was held by him and his descendants for about 100 years. Moses Eaton was an industrious and thrifty man as well as an excellent farmer. His only son, Jesse, was born in Wentworth and lived upon the old homestead. He married Elinor, the daughter of John Page and granddaughter of Ephraim Page, the pioneer.

Clarence Eaton, a descendant of Jesse, now owns and occupies the old farm in Wentworth where Ephraim Page settled and which for three generations was held by the Pages as their homestead.

Mention has here been made of all the families believed to have been located in town when the first town meeting was held, as well as some who had not then arrived.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN

### FIRST TOWN MEETING

During the first few years of settlement there was no government established, there were no officials, no inventories made and hence no taxes; this very happy and desirable state of affairs was too good to last.

By the time the year 1779 had arrived, it became necessary for the Province of New Hampshire to make use of every resource both of money and men in order to carry its share of the heavy burdens imposed by the War of the Revolution upon the struggling colonies.

Local conditions also required attention. There were no roads worthy of the name and no schools and there could be none until money could be raised by taxation for such purposes; no taxes, however, could be imposed until officers were elected with authority to take an inventory and lay a tax.

Samuel Emerson of Plymouth, then the first selectman and a leading citizen of that town, was authorized to call a meeting of the legal voters of Wentworth

and to preside in said meeting until a moderator had been duly elected.

The meeting was called in July, 1779, at the house of John Aiken.

There is no record preserved of those who were qualified to attend this first meeting in 1779, but we may assume fairly that the following were present or were at least entitled to the right to vote at this time:

Major Enoch Page — then living on the East Side.

Ephraim Page — living on the old town farm.

John Aiken — living near Eugene Brown's.

Joseph Smith — living on Ellsworth Hill.

Ebenezer Gove — living then on East Side.

John Aiken, Jr. — lived with his father.

Samuel Aiken — lived with or near John Aiken.

Hugh McClellan — on Ellsworth Hill.

Benjamin Weeks — from Ellsworth Hill.

John Tural — on slope Sanders Hill, near the brook.

William Heath — on Charles Gove place.

Capt. Reuben Witcher — in Phillips White house, near railroad bridge.

Isaac Clifford — near Smart's landing.

Samuel Hodge — near Rumney line, about where Samuel Smart settled later.

Experience Cross — on Samuel B. Burnham place in south part of town.

Edward Green — on Atwell Hill, then called Wentworth's Hill.

Samuel Hooper — of Hooper Hill.

Joseph Cooper — on Ben B. Foster place.

William Cotton — on Clark place.

If our estimate is correct, there were then nineteen voters in town.

The meeting was duly held and opened by Mr. Emerson.

Major Enoch Page was chosen to preside. The first officer elected after a moderator has been chosen is the town clerk hence it is likely the first man ever elected in Wentworth to hold a town office was John Aiken. John Aiken, Joseph Smith and Ephraim Page were chosen selectmen, Ebenezer Gove, constable.

The constable was an officer of much importance in those days. He warned or issued warrants for town meetings, collected the taxes and also discharged for many years, most of the duties of the town treasurer.

The writer is well aware that this statement of selectmen elected at the first town meeting conflicts with the list named in the *Grafton County Gazeteer* of 1886. But as the selectmen's account for the year 1779, now open before him, is signed by John Aiken and Joseph Smith, Selectmen, the case would seem to be clear.

The original book containing the selectmen's accounts for the first fifty years of the town's history is in existence and in a good state of preservation. From 1779 to 1785 the book is all in the neat legible handwriting of John Aiken; the account was carefully kept, and until the year 1795, all money was reckoned in pounds, shillings and pence. The first year's account contains exactly eight items of ex-



pense. The selectmen charged for "6 days taking Inv. and making rates and committing them to the constable"; later they had "three mugs of Flip" at the expense of the town.

In 1780 the town was required to furnish men for the Army and also supplies. Beef and rum appear to have been deemed the most essential. The town's quota of beef at this time was fixed at 1,065 pounds; we are unable to say how much rum was asked for. Both articles were furnished, however.

An item in selectmen's account for 1780 reads "pd Capt. Whitcher in part of his oxen for Continental beef, 330 pounds, no shillings, no pence." Also the same year "pd Maj. Enoch Page, soldier money, 300 pounds, no shillings, no pence. pd John Aiken for soldier money, 300 pounds, no shillings, no pence." In 1781, same account, "pd Benja. Smith, a soldier for the town, 3 pounds, 15 shillings, no pence. pd for rum for town's proportion, 2 pounds, 8 shillings, no pence."

The patriotic citizens of Warren in their zeal for freedom, furnished through their benevolent proprietor, Phillips White, for the use of the army "Nine garlins and two qts. best West Indea Rum." It is not on record they ever furnished any beef.

Then, as now, there were "undesirable citizens": in 1783 the town "Pd constable for warning Wil-



liam ——— and Molly ——— out of town, 4 shillings." The above names have been deleted in order to avert comment. Also the same year "Paid Simon Smith for carrying Margaret Lemay to Rumney selectmen, 9 shillings." Evidently some house cleaning was being done in our good town on or about this date.

A word of explanation should here be made in regard to the currency then in use, of which there were several kinds. The old Continental paper money was very greatly depreciated, the phrase "not worth a Continental" has passed into a proverb. This was known as the old "emition" money.

About 1782 there was a new "emition" which had more value and there was also "specia" which was silver money. A good comparison of the values of these different kinds of money is found in the account for the year 1783 which runs in part as follows: "Rec'd of last year's Selectmen, notes in old emition money, 596 pounds, 9 shillings, equal to 7 pounds 19 shillings  $\frac{1}{2}$  pence in silver: in new emition, 6 pounds, 7 shillings, 10 pence, equal in silver 1 pound 11 shillings 11 pence: and in silver, 19 pounds, 3 shillings, 5 pence."

We can see by this table that Captain Whitcher who received in 1780, 330 pounds in old "emition" for his oxen, actually got about the equivalent of thirty dollars in silver, hence we can assume this was about the price of a yoke of beef cattle at that time.

During the years from 1770 to 1780 there was much confusion in most of the towns in this region in regard to the town lines. The early surveys were perhaps the best that could be made at the time but town lines were not clearly defined and in places overlapped, causing much trouble and confusion.

Some of the settlers were uncertain what town they were living in. One parcel of land was actually deeded described as being in the town of Campton or Plymouth.

At last the Legislature in October, 1780, passed an act authorizing a designated committee to survey the boundaries of Rumney, Wentworth, Warren, Plymouth, Campton, Piermont and Orford. This committee performed their duties and reported the result to the Legislature September 24, 1784.

This report was accepted and approved, thus establishing the bounds of the several towns mentioned.

Wentworth gained rather than lost by this transaction.

Warren, whose proprietors seemed to be large minded in the matter of claiming adjoining territory, lost rather heavily.

The Warren line up to 1784 was supposed to come very near Martin's Brook on the East Side; all settlers on the north side of that brook supposed they were in Warren but after the line was established,

Peter Stevens, Simeon Smith, Joseph Kimball and Lemuel Kezer passed from Warren to the jurisdiction of Wentworth, together with most of their lands. Wentworth gained also about eight lots of unsettled land.

A committee composed of Maj. Enoch Page on the part of Wentworth and Capt. William Butler acting for Warren, with the assistance of Maj. Joseph Page, arranged the details and settled any contested questions, thus happily litigation was avoided.

In this connection it may be well to add that by act of January 15, 1787, "Thomas Clark, Daniel Clark, Jona. Herbert and Asa Boynton with their several estates, were severed from Piermont and annexed to Wentworth."

With the close of the war, an increasing number of new settlers arrived. In 1784, Asa Putney, Thom. Hodg and Samuel Smart appear on the tax list for the first time.

In 1783 the first highways were formally laid out, but as the matter of highways will be considered at some length in another chapter, it will not be necessary to write further at this time on the subject of roads.

### THE FIRST RECORDED INVENTORY AND TAX LIST

For the year 1783 there was entered on the records for the first time, a list of taxpayers with their valua-

tion. This is the earliest known authentic list of the inhabitants of the town. It is of much historical importance and worthy of insertion here in full.

The reader will of course bear in mind this is not a complete list of all who had ever lived in town up to that time as a few perhaps rather restless spirits had already been here and were now elsewhere. But nearly all who are listed as being then in town, remained there permanently and in several instances were the founders in town of families that have persisted until the present time.

The names upon the list were not entered in alphabetical order: they are all in the fine clear-cut handwriting of John Aiken.

The account is headed "Valuation of Inventory taken in April, 1783 upon which the Taxes are made" and enumerates:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Enoch Page, Esq. | Isaac Clifford   |
| Josiah Pillsbury | Thomas Todd      |
| Ebenezer Gove    | Experience Cross |
| Ephraim Page     | William Cotton   |
| John Akin        | Samuel Hooper    |
| John Akin, Jr.   | Joseph Cooper    |
| Sam'l Akin       | Isaac Brown      |
| Joseph Smith     | Sam'l Worster    |
| Hugh McClellan   | Jirah Martin     |
| Benjamin Weeks   | Edward Green     |
| John Tural       | Gould French     |
| William Heath    | Sam'l Currier    |
| Reuben Whitcher  | Aaron Putney     |

in all, twenty-six names.



The proprietors were also listed and taxed as non-residents.

The amount of the inventory of the men named in the list was 72 pounds, 11 shillings, 6 pence.

Enoch Page, Esq., had the largest amount of taxable property and Aaron Putney, the least.

At the bottom of the page is recorded "The foregoing list committed to Ebenezer Gove, Constable, with a warrant to collect the same" and the account is signed by John Akin and Benjamin Weeks, Selectmen.

This same year they paid "18 shillings for a Town Book" and also "pd the town clerk for recording the town actings for the time past to this day, 1 pound, 17 shillings, 8 pence." This book was no doubt the first town clerk's record book.

The year of 1787 may be said to mark the beginning of the present village or at least the central portion or that part of it lying near and around the common. The first houses in what can be called the village were in the valley of the Pond Brook or over in that direction. The present two-story Page house, as it is called, is about where the village began to develop and was on the first main thoroughfare.

In 1787 Phillips White gave the town for cemetery purposes, "an acre of land lying west of the river and above the great falls." This land constitutes the pres-



ent village common. It was then a grove of poplars. Here was located the first burying ground at the village. The first meetinghouse was built very soon after this. It was quite naturally located upon this land. We find too the first schoolhouse was erected about where Robert McLaughlin now lives, hence the building of the meetinghouse and schoolhouse marked the beginning of the central part of the village.

We shall see later the schoolhouse soon was moved into the north end of the village, the meetinghouse moved easterly off the common and the old burying ground discontinued.

The land was then leveled and grassed over, so that the common in its present form and extent has lasted without material change since about 1815.

During the early history of the town there was some rivalry and difference of opinion as to where the village would eventually be located. Some thought the East Side would in time become the business center; another group were boosting Ellsworth Hill, while still another perhaps the largest faction of all were very certain the Atwell Hill district not far from the schoolhouse would in time become the civic center; a few years later it was seriously proposed to form a new town from portions of Wentworth, Orford, Piermont and Warren, with the Atwell Hill settlement as a center.

This would give the above region a chance to develop upon its own merits, without being held back by the other portions of the town.

One thing is certain, hills had no terrors for our early settlers.

The hill farms were thought to be on the whole the most desirable. The hill land was as a rule more easily cleared, the soil even if very stony in places, was strong and productive.

Rough and stony fields could be mowed with a scythe, and raked with a hand rake, the grain was always reaped with hand sickles anyway, so that before the era of farming with horses and machinery, the rougher land was able to compete with all but the best of the meadow land for purposes of agriculture.

It should also be remembered that before the coming of the railroad in 1850, the town's population was supported by the soil of the town, which produced with some small exceptions, the food and clothing for all the inhabitants, very little being imported from outside. This required the tillage of all available soil.

In 1788 occurred the first election ever held for President of the United States. At this election 27 votes were cast, all for the Father of His Country.

A beginning and not much more, had by this time been made toward the support of some public schools.

As a further evidence of substantial progress, it was in 1789 "Voted to build a meetinghouse, if it could be done without a tax to the town."

We shall read in another chapter more about the building of this first meetinghouse and also what became of it.

With the coming of the year of 1790, it is probably fair to say the pioneer period of development had passed.

Twenty years had elapsed from the time of the first settlement.

A considerable quantity of land had been cleared and was under cultivation, roads such as they were, extended through the valley, and over the hills.

Several frame houses had been already built and more were soon to be erected. An attempt to establish a system of public schools had been made and money for the support of these schools was being voted at each annual town meeting.

There were mills for the sawing of lumber and grinding of grain.

Some bridges had been, or were now being built at this time, and it would appear the town was now fully organized, officered and equipped to take care of the growth and development that now seemed assured.

The project of dividing the town by the separation of the Atwell Hill region died a natural death; the

boundaries of the town have remained as established by the act of 1784 practically unchanged until the present time.

There is perhaps no more fitting way to close the brief narrative of the pioneer period of our town than to state who were then living there.

The first census taken by the government was in this year of 1790. The count was begun the first Monday in August of that year.

Only the names of heads of families were listed. Every person, male or female, who kept a separate establishment was regarded as the head of a household for the purposes of this census.

At the risk of being tedious, the list of heads of families as shown by this enumeration is here inserted in full, as in no other way is it practicable to show who were then living in the town, and reads as follows:

Akin, James  
Akin, John  
Akin, John, Jun.  
Ames, Amos  
Boyanton, Asa  
Boyanton, Thomas  
Chase, Nicholas  
Clark, Daniel  
Clark, Thomas  
Clifford, Isaac  
Cupper, Joseph

Cotton, Benjamin  
Cross, Experience  
Currier, Samuel  
Eaton, Job  
Ellsworth, Samuel  
Grove, Ebenezer  
Heard, Amos  
Heaton, Ebenezer  
Heaton, Johnathan  
Hooper, Samuel  
Keeser, Lemuel



|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Kimball, Joseph    | Smart, Samuel    |
| Leicester, John    | Smith, Benjamin  |
| McClaron, John     | Smith, John      |
| Page, Enock        | Smith, Joseph    |
| Page, Epharim      | Smith, Molly     |
| Peten, Absalom     | Stephens, Peter  |
| Pillsbury, Josiah  | Weeks, Benjamin  |
| Pillsbury, Merrill | Whicher, Reuben  |
| Putney, Aron       | White, Nathaniel |
| Putney, Asa        | Worcester, Louis |

in all, forty-two families.

The rather grotesque spelling in above list is the enumerators. The mysterious workings of the human mind are such that the one unable to spell correctly the simple names of Gove and Peters, could render Leicester and Pillsbury, without a break.

All told, there were then in town, 56 males 16 years or more of age, 73 boys under 16 years, 112 women and girls of all ages; possibly then, as now, some of very uncertain age, a total of 241 inhabitants.

A comparison of the two printed lists shows easily the names of those arriving between 1783 and 1790.

Also it appears many of the families who have made a large part of the town's history were already here and the names of Akin, Clark, Clifford, Currier, Eaton, Ellsworth, Gove, Hooper, Kimball, Page, Pillsbury, Smart and Whitcher have persisted in the most part until the present day.



## CHAPTER III—1790–1820

MENTION OF MORE EARLY SETTLERS — THE ROAD  
TO ORFORD — FIRST POST OFFICE — WAR OF  
1812–15 — THE MILITIA

### THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS, 1790–1820

Brighter days were now dawning for our infant settlement. The War of the Revolution was over; our national independence seemed assured. The state had adopted a constitution, currency depreciation was passing away, the dollar was now the unit of value and fairly stable; the people of our state could now look confidently towards the future and devote their energies to the peaceful development of the whole region.

Our town was now increasing rapidly in population and resources. Among the settlers who came about this period, a few families deserve special mention.

The first which we shall consider will be the Whites.

Phillips White, the proprietor, who has already been mentioned many times, took a deep interest in the early affairs of the town. He owned much real estate in Wentworth and Warren and was apparently a man of ample means. Nathaniel and William

White were brothers and are believed to have been grandsons of Phillips White; at any rate, they came into possession of much of his land in Wentworth. Nathaniel came first, about 1788; he settled on the land later owned by the Eames family and had a house near where Mrs. Max Witcher now lives.

Here at this house he opened, in 1790, the first store ever kept in town.

His stock was very small and consisted of some of the bare necessities of the settlers, probably salt, gunpowder, lead, possibly a few bars of iron, with tobacco and molasses, would, with a few small articles such as needles, awls and gimlets, be about the extent of the assortment. Probably two Ford cars would easily have carried it all at one trip if there had been any suitable road.

Nathaniel White did not remain long in the town. The land on which he settled was bought by Johnathan Eames about 1794.

William White came about 1791. He settled on the land where Maxfield, the first settler, located, later the farm of the late Col. Joseph Savage and now (1928) owned by Harry M. Turner.

Here he built the house still standing on this place and opened it as a hotel. He had here the first licenses to "keep and sell liquor to the public" ever granted in the town. This house stood on the main road

through the town at that time and about at the junction where the road to Dorchester began.

William White was a prominent, useful and substantial citizen in his day. He was constantly in office, serving as town clerk, selectman and representative and, during his life, the largest land owner in the town.

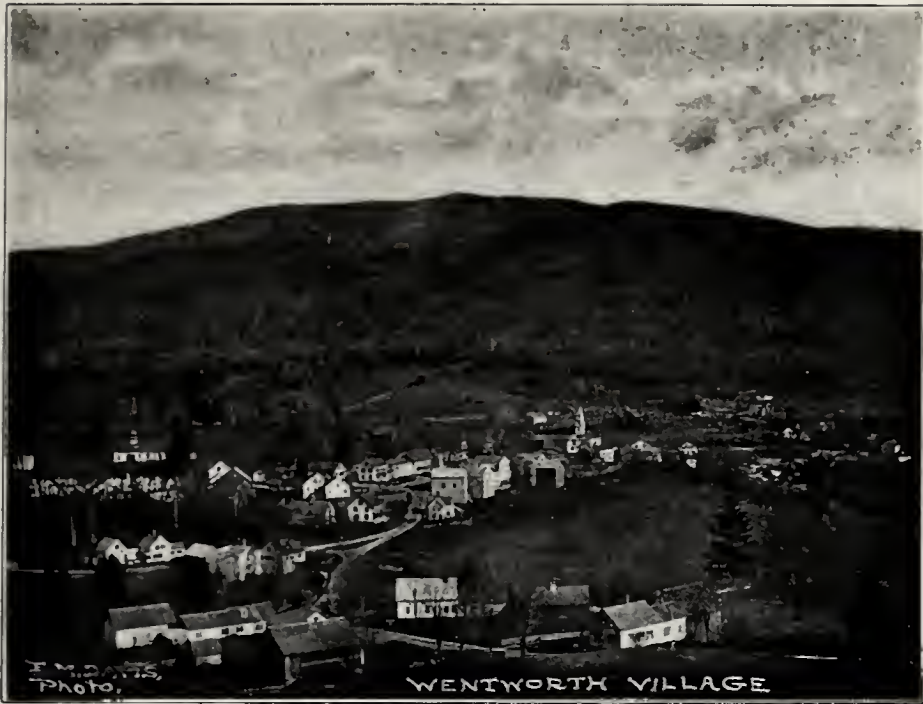
He died in 1806 at a comparatively early age; the place, however, remained in the hands of the White family for twenty years or more after his death, finally being sold by his heirs to Col. Joseph Savage.

Jonathan Eames, Esq., came about 1795, together with Daniel Eames.

Jonathan Eames was a graduate of Harvard College and a Presbyterian minister by profession. His epitaph informs us that he had been for "35 years an ambassador from the Prince of Peace to an apostate world."

The Eames family became large owners of real estate; they acquired most of the land now owned by David N. Eaton formerly of Amos Rollins and William H. Moore, also much unimproved land. The small mountain directly east of the village, known locally as the Eames or Robert Eames Mountain, bears their name and was once largely their property.

The Eames family became quite numerous in town and were substantial and reliable people. Arista



*Photo by Mrs. William H. Davis*

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF VILLAGE IN 1890



HOUSE BUILT BY WILLIAM WHITE ABOUT 1795  
HOME OF HARRY TURNER





Eames, caretaker of the Webster Memorial Library building, is the present representative of the family in Wentworth. The name, which has always been pronounced as if spelled Ames, should in all probability be pronounced Eemes. Its derivation is from the old Anglo-Saxon word "eme" or "eame," and was their word meaning Uncle.

Another race that is not now represented in town but which deserves mention in this connection is the family of Saunders or Sanders.

David Saunders, the founder, came to Wentworth, it is said, from Sanbornton about 1794.

Beyond a doubt he was, like so many of our settlers, of Scotch extraction. The name is a Scottish corruption of Alexander.

David Saunders settled finally on the hill lying southward of Ellsworth Hill and on the place first cleared by the enthusiastic bear hunter, Asa Putney. This hill, settled largely by the Saunders family, has for over a hundred years borne their name. As a race they were not fond of books, but were peaceable, honest and industrious.

The name of Haines, or Haynes, is an extremely ancient one. It can be traced back until the time of the Crusades and even further. The name and race came from Wales, originally.

Matthias Haines came about 1795 and was the

founder of the Haines family in town. He lived at first in the Joshua Foster neighborhood. His wife was a daughter of Samuel Smart. He later settled on the hill where Daniel Clifford and, after him, Henry Campbell lived. Here he died and left, in town, numerous descendants.

Others who came before 1800 and became well known were Samuel Johnson of Ellsworth Hill, and Aaron Jewett, the pioneer of the region later known as Brown's Mills; also Isaac Brown in the south part of the town.

Schools had by this time been established in at least five districts, and the roads had no doubt been improved to quite an extent. Live stock had by 1795 got so numerous that agitation for a town pound, where the straggling stock might be impounded at the owner's risk and expense, resulted in Lemuel Keezer giving the town his old log house to be used for this purpose. This house was used for several years as a pound. The location was not convenient, being almost on the Warren line.

In 1800 the town voted \$12.50 to build a log pound at the easterly end of the common, which was in use until it was decided in 1812 to clear off all graves, also structures of whatever kind from the common, which was done, and thus this grass plot became a real common and the center of the village.

The present town pound with its massive stone walls is the work of the Ellsworths. John Ellsworth had the contract to build it, being assisted in the work more or less by his brothers, Samuel, Jr., Aaron, Jeremiah, and quite likely by others. This work appears to have been by contract and cost, as nearly as can be ascertained, about \$75. The gate and padlock were bought extra. The pound was ready for business in 1817. It was thoroughly built, as shown by its durability and present good condition.

In 1796 the selectmen's invoice and accounts are computed in pounds, shillings and pence for the last time, although the word shilling appears frequently in the account up to as late as 1825.

In 1797 the whole amount of tax assessed upon residents was \$440.05; of this, \$50.92 was a special tax raised for building the Brook Road, so called, to Orford.

This piece of road was for many years a bone of contention. The Orford people clamored for its construction. The Wentworth people were unwilling to build four miles of road through a wilderness to accommodate outsiders. In 1795 the town voted to build their part of the road provided Orford would pay one-half the cost. The town of Orford gave a bond signed by John Mann and two others that they would build their end of the road and pay half the

cost of what Wentworth had to build. Wentworth built a part of their road, but Orford did not pay, as they agreed to do; in 1801 the Wentworth people became disgusted, voted to discontinue the road and sued on the bond to recover damages from Orford.

This was the beginning of a lawsuit which dragged through the courts for more than five years.

The following items copied literally from the town accounts are illuminating: 1806 — "By our order to Benjamin Cotton for services in the law sute against Orford, \$12.00"; in 1807 — "Benjamin Cotton for tending court in the Orford road affair, \$6.70"; finally came the day of judgment: in 1809 — "Fine on Orford Road, \$516.57."

Benjamin Cotton was, during a part of this time, a selectman as well as agent for the town in this suit against Orford.

There is a lack of definite information, but the evidence would appear to show the above amount was finally paid to Wentworth by the town of Orford. It is not improbable Wentworth needed the money, and we will hope they got it.

In 1795 a road was laid out going over Atwell Hill. After the Brook Road blew up, a road was built from near the old Levi Davis farm down the slope of the hill into Orford. It came out on the flat land lying in between the two ponds. This was for some years



the main and, in fact, the only direct road between the two towns.

It was a roundabout, hilly and unsuitable location for a main road at its best, even if hills were not greatly dreaded in those days; it was not satisfactory to the people of either town to be obliged to travel this route, and after some years the road running through the woods from the Atwell Hill Road, the so-called "Upper" or "Old" Road, was built.

The present brook road dates from about 1856. At the present time this road is being converted into a state highway of standard width and construction. It now seems that, after a lapse of 125 years, the proposed turnpike over this route will become in a short time a reality.

In 1806, Caleb Keith, Esq., moved from the town of Bridgewater, Mass., to Wentworth Village and lived near the Pond Brook, about on the spot where the Chase homestead, occupied by Miss Hattie Chase, now stands.

Caleb Keith had been a commissioned officer in the Revolutionary Army. He was a notary public and did about all there was to be done in that line in the town for many years. He was constantly in office, and there is every evidence that he enjoyed to the end of his life the respect and esteem of his fellow townsmen.



He was in 1810 probably, appointed postmaster, the Wentworth Post Office being established, it is believed in that year. This was the first post office ever opened in the Baker's River valley. Rumney people got their mail from Plymouth, while the Warren people came to Wentworth for their daily papers, if they had any, until about 1820. This first post office was probably in a ramshackle building known as the Tontine, which stood about where Evans' Garage is now. Squire Keith continued as postmaster for eight years, and was succeeded by Simon Bailey. He was representative four years, 1821-24, and member of the Governor's Council in 1825, 1826 and 1827.

Squire "KETH," as the name was always spoken by the older people, died of influenza October 9, 1842, and now lies in the village cemetery only a few feet from the grave of Dr. Thomas Whipple.

William Moore was born in Sanbornton in 1780. He lived in Dorchester for some two years and came from there to Wentworth in 1806.

In Wentworth he was a storekeeper, school teacher, farmer and public man until his death on October 3, 1863. He was a selectman at different times, representative in 1813 from Wentworth and Rumney. He was again representative in 1836-37.

It was, however, as town clerk that he gained perhaps his greatest fame, being town clerk sixteen years

in all. He was one of the best penmen who has ever lived in town. Some of his work, still in existence, does him great credit, the writing being almost like a copper plate engraving.

His son, William H. Moore, in after years a representative, town clerk and selectman, was an excellent and capable official and did his work in a painstaking way, but as a penman, was no match for his father, who was in a class by himself in that particular.

This period saw the location in the southerly portion of the town of two families who have from then until the present time been prominently identified with that region and have made as a whole a large contribution to the town's welfare.

These two families came from Pelham, N. H., or that vicinity. They were already allied by intermarriage and a common purpose, and finally settled in Wentworth at about the same time and in the same neighborhood. This will serve to introduce the races of Foster and Colburn to the reader.

URIAH COLBURN, of English descent, was born in Dracut, Mass., November 12, 1781. He married Mehitabel Foster of Pelham, N. H., in December, 1802. He lived in Rumney a short time and settled, in the spring of 1807, in Wentworth on what has in later years been known as the John L. Downing farm, now owned by Frank Downing. He lived here about forty-

five years and then sold his farm to Mr. Downing. He lived next on the place now owned by Lester Hutchins, and last upon the Robert Dodge farm, so called, in Rowentown. He served as lieutenant and then as captain in the Fifth Company of the old Thirteenth Militia Regiment, being always known thereafter as Captain Colburn. He held many minor offices, and was selectman in 1819, and always a good neighbor and townsman. From Captain Colburn and his sons, Uriah, Jr., James F., Joseph and Joshua (Atwood) are descended the race of Colburns now numerous and widely dispersed in this region.

The name of Foster, Forster or Forester, as it is variously spelled, is common in parts of England as well as the southern part of Scotland.

John Foster, who had been a tax gatherer for King George the Second in England, came from Reading, England, to this country, and died in Reading, Mass. His wife was Katherine O'Ragan.

Their son James served three years in the Revolutionary Army. He married Mehitable Atwood; they came from Pelham, N. H., to Wentworth in 1806 or 1807. James died a few years later, aged 67 years.

The oldest son of James and Mehitable (Atwood) Foster was John Foster, Sr., born in 1770. He moved from Rumney in 1814 to the place now owned and

occupied by his descendant, Ben B. Foster, and died there.

The second son, James Foster, Jr., was born in 1771. He settled in Wentworth on what was later known as the Joshua Foster farm. His wife was Betsy, daughter of William White. The land on the west side of the river, formerly owned by White, passed to the Foster family; that on the easterly side formed later the farm of Colonel Joseph Savage. James, Jr., died in 1848, aged 77.

Joshua Foster, Sr., the third son of James, Sr., was born in Pelham, N. H., and with his wife, who was Judith Nevins of that town, came to Wentworth probably in 1811. They settled on what has been known as the George W. Boyd place on the South Branch, and were the original settlers on that land. Joshua died on this place at the age of 72 years.

From these three brothers have descended our various races of Fosters, many of whom have been counted as among the leading and substantial men of the town, and of whom more will be said later on.

From 1790 to 1810 the town grew rapidly and showed a large increase in population and valuation. The citizens were becoming self-conscious and had great ambitions for the future of the community.

One of these projects was to make Wentworth a shire town. From 1810 to 1815, a continual effort was



made with that end in view. Articles were put in the town meeting warrants and at different times committees were elected to promote in the legislature and elsewhere the efforts to have a courthouse built in the village and, if possible, have the county records kept here.

This was beyond any doubt one and perhaps the main reason why the ground which is now the Common was cleared off, as it was urged the county buildings would, of course, be located around the Common; hence it should be improved in order to be a suitable civic center, as it were, for the new county seat. This plan to make of Wentworth a shire town speaks well for the enterprise of her people at that time, but, it is hardly necessary to add, failed in its object.

The first stage line making regular trips through the town was put in operation in 1814. It is likely from that time onward a mail was received daily at the post office, then in charge of the town's first postmaster, Squire Caleb Keith.

The town as a whole did not prosper as well during the years from 1810 to 1820 as in the two previous decades.

The War of 1812 increased the burdens of taxation and hindered trade and development. We must remember our people were practically all farmers and depended upon their crops for their sustenance. The



season of 1816, described at some length elsewhere, was one of abnormal cold and frost. Snow fell every month during the year; crops failed and there was a great dearth of food. It was a time of scarcity everywhere and, in places, one of great privation and hardship. The only crop which did even fairly well was potatoes.

Contrary to the popular belief, the early settlers did not recognize the value or make much dependence on potatoes as a staple crop. They no doubt cooked and used more turnips than they did potatoes during the early period.

One spring a man living on Atwell Hill sent out word that any one who wanted some potatoes for seed was welcome to come and get some of his; that he had a whole barrel full and would be glad to give them all they wanted.

In the year 1815 a very serious and fatal epidemic of what was called spotted fever prevailed. This sickness was more or less prevalent during the year over much of New England. It was far less serious in Wentworth than in many other localities.

Warren suffered severely at this time. The historian of that town devotes an entire chapter to the description of the ravages of the spotted fever in that town during the year.

There is no doubt that the epidemic of 1815, fol-

lowed by a year of great scarcity and hardship, caused by the loss of the usual food supplies, occasioned widespread distress and suffering, not confined, however, to the people of any one town but generally throughout the entire region.

Taken as a whole, it was a gloomy and distressing period.

The War of 1812, as it is called, was also a strain upon the townspeople. The actual part taken by Wentworth citizens in that struggle can be briefly told.

During the first year of the war the military forces of the state were chiefly used for the protection of our northern frontiers against a force attempting an invasion from Canada.

During this war, enlistments were for short periods; in some cases for only sixty days. The usual enlistment appears to have been, however, for six months.

In July, 1812, a company commanded by Capt. Ephraim H. Mahurin was drafted from the old 13th Militia Regiment and stationed at Stewartstown.

The following Wentworth men served in Captain Mahurin's company, enlistments being for six months: Enoch Page, Jr., sergeant; William Leicester, private; David Saunders, Jr., private; Benjamin Smith, Jr., private. William Leicester served two enlistments, or one year, in this command.

In 1814 a force was raised hastily for the defence of Portsmouth, then believed to be in great danger of an immediate attack by land and sea; enlistments were for sixty days.

The town furnished at this time the following men: Wentworth Downs, second lieutenant, Harty's company; William Aiken, second sergeant, Harty's company; John Aiken, private; Enoch Knowlton, private.

It is very likely the town may have had more men in the service at some time during the war than has been shown here. It is rather hard to get definite information on this point. Many of the muster rolls are incomplete, showing only the soldier's name and rank, and give no residence.

As we are now writing of military affairs, this would be a proper place to mention the militia system which obtained in the state from the close of the Revolution to the year 1852 and until abolished.

The spring training and the fall muster were beyond a doubt the gala days for the whole population. All men between the ages of 18 and 45 were subject to military duty, only the physically unfit, "Clergymen and Ideots" being exempted.

These trainings were held for years previous to 1850 at Rumney Plain, where there was a large tract of level ground. Here was displayed on every muster day, perhaps not all the "pride, pomp and circum-

stance of glorious war," but as much of it as could be rallied to the colors for the occasion.

To the small boys and girls, too, apparently it was a time of joy unconfined.

The men who trained received no pay for their day's work, but were furnished rations at the town's expense. Rum as well as food was included in these rations. In case the town failed to furnish rations, they had to pay the recruit 34 cents in cash in lieu of rations.

Until about 1840, Wentworth was classed with other nearby towns to constitute the 13th Militia Regiment of the state.

After 1842, Wentworth, Rumney, Dorchester and Groton were grouped together and constituted the 35th Regiment State Militia.

The town furnished its full proportion of officers for these regiments during the many years they were in existence, and two generals of high rank, to wit: General Absalom Peters and General Asa Dolloff, both of whom attained the rank of Division Commander, an important position.

The history of the Phalanx Company belongs to another and later period.

It may be of interest to note here that the original general officers of the 35th Regiment were: Colonel, Asa Dolloff of Wentworth; lieutenant-colonel, Jno. P. Burnham of Rumney; major, Jedediah C. Wood-



bury of Wentworth; adjutant, Joseph Savage of Wentworth; quartermaster Abram Preston, probably of Rumney.

With the coming of the year of 1820, the town's population was about 800. The selectmen's account for that year showed receipts from all sources of \$1,933.44. They paid out the same year, for all purposes, \$1,936.03, and reported a net debt of \$27.55 at the close of the year's business. There were six school districts which received between them \$313.56 for school purposes. The twelve highway districts were allotted the sum of \$520.08. The state tax was \$128, while the county treasurer received during the year from the town, \$139.62. A new schoolhouse was built in District No. 7 at a cost of \$102.04. They also paid Isaac Fisk \$50 for a new bridge on the South Branch. Small items of a general nature accounted for the balance of the payments. Daniel Cole and Moses Eaton were taxed on stock in trade. The same year, Ezekiel Akin, Robert Eames, Timothy Gile, Aaron Jewett, Caleb Keith, John Page and Samuel Stevens were taxed on Mills.

This very brief review will serve to show the material progress made by the town up to the year 1820.

There is abundant evidence to show the town was then looked upon as a thriving and prosperous community with an assured future which was confidently awaited.



## CHAPTER IV — 1820-1850

ACTIVE PROGRESS — BUILDING OF THE MEETING-  
HOUSE — CHURCH SOCIETIES — COMING OF THE  
RAILROAD — TOWN AT ITS ZENITH — REVIEW  
OF YEAR 1850

### THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS, 1820-1850

It can be fairly said the town was now entering upon a period of expansion, improvement and development.

No one can study the history of the town and reflect upon it, without reaching the conclusion that these years from 1820 to 1850, which we are now considering, were the best and most satisfactory in the whole period of the town's existence.

During this time the town had a larger population, did more business, made more progress and last, but not by any means least, had during these years a citizenship of a higher average degree of ability, resourcefulness, enterprise and talent, than it had ever possessed before, or ever has been able to show since.

More constructive work was done and more material and we believe also moral and spiritual progress made during the years we are now considering

than at any other era in the history of the town.

Agriculture, always the main business of the town, reached during this period its highest development. There were too, many shops, mills and various small industries that contributed to the comfort and support of the population.

The district school system was developed during this time to its fullest extent and an association of interested and public spirited citizens had established an academy for the advancement of education and the more general diffusion of knowledge.

About 1830 the church was built and has remained ever since, an ornament to the town. In the years from 1821 to 1829, with one of its citizens a member of Congress and during three years of this time with another citizen a member of the Governor's Council, the height of political influence and power of the town was undoubtedly reached.

The first minister was regularly settled in town in 1833 in the person of the Rev. Increase S. Davis, a man of striking personality and strong character; he made a large contribution to the town's welfare and betterment. On the material side, we find the town had in 1830 a population of 924 and was equipped with a handsome church, four stores, two taverns, six saw and five grist mills as well as three carding and fulling mills.

There were two and sometimes three doctors regularly settled in town, one of whom (Whipple) was then president of the Grafton District Medical Society.

It was a time of progress and substantial growth lasting until after 1850. No land has been cleared since 1850 except a small spot here and there and since that year the population has steadily declined.

The great event during the years just preceding 1850, was the building to and through the township of the Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad which ran its first train to Wentworth station in May, 1851.

The railroad was at first warmly welcomed by the townspeople who invested some \$60,000 in the enterprise. This money was nearly all lost in the end. The original stockholders in due time got the experience while outsiders got the railroad.

Space does not permit the mention even by name of all who were prominent in affairs during more or less of this period.

Neither is it any reflection on any person or persons if their name happens to be left unmentioned. But a few individuals or families who seem representative will now be briefly considered.

Enoch Page, Jr., son of Enoch the pioneer, was for a long time a leading citizen. He held much town office and was at the time he died, Treasurer of Grafton County.

He was a soldier in the War of 1812 and was injured either when he was in the Army or very soon after, so that he became permanently lame. He taught school before he went into the Army and after his discharge and injury, seems to have taught nearly all the time.

He was known from one end of the town to the other and in other towns, as "Master Page." His method of discipline made a deep impression on his pupils, at least physically.

A visitor at one of his schools recalls that he found Master Page sitting at his desk. Behind him was a collection of withes and switches of assorted size and weight. He could thus make the punishment fit the crime. The visitor asked Master Page what use he made of so many withes and was informed "He intended to show the rebels there was a God in Israel," a favorite expression of his. He may have got some of his ideas of discipline while in the Army and appears to have bettered his instructions. In spite of his harshness, his services as a teacher were in demand and he was looked upon as a capable and efficient monitor, guide and instructor in general to the rising generation. He outlived his father but a few years, dying in 1835 of spotted fever and, with many of his kindred, is buried at the village.

Ebenezer Atwell came in 1819, settling upon the hill then called Wentworth Hill. He was a prosperous,



substantial citizen. The family of Atwells increased in number as well as influence; in time the locality where they were living became known as Atwell Hill. The name has persisted up to the present time but the race of Atwells are not now represented in the town's population.

Having described how Atwell Hill came to receive its name, it would be fitting to speak next of Rowentown.

The race first entered on the town books as Roin, then as Roen and shortly and finally as Rowen, came to town at an early period. Joshua Rowen, who it is believed was a Revolutionary soldier, was here in 1809, possibly before; there was also John and Jacob Rowen.

The Rowens are believed to have been of Scotch descent. They intermarried more or less with the Saunders family, and lived in that vicinity. In later years the Rowens settled numerously in the south part of the town, in the basin lying at the foot of Smart's Mountain. This locality received its name from their race, having certainly since about 1840, perhaps earlier, been known as Rowentown.

The name seems to be firmly established and is mentioned in deeds, wills and other legal papers of record. It serves to perpetuate in the region the name of Rowen, perhaps for all time.



About the year 1640-50, Jonathan Stanyan came from England and settled in Hampton, N. H. His wife was Mary Sanborn. They had two sons and were the founders in America of the Stanyan family.

Newell Stanyan, a descendant in the fourth generation from the first Jonathan, was born May 30, 1798 in Chichester, N. H.; his wife was Hannah Drake of the same town. They moved to Wentworth in 1821 or very early in 1822 and bought on Atwell Hill the farm later owned by the Rev. Mr. Howard and adjoining the General Peters' place. They were two of the eight charter members of the Congregational Church Society organized in 1830.

Newell Stanyan was a carpenter. His sons, Jonathan, David D., Newell, Jr., and James, were all mechanics of ability in their various lines.

The Stanyans had also much musical taste and talent. They were active and prominent in musical circles and as singers and musicians ranked with the leaders in town in the practice and teaching of singing as well as instrumental music.

Since the matter of music has been introduced it can be stated the town once boasted of a band. This band was regularly incorporated by Act of the Legislature of December 6, 1824, in the following language:

"Be it enacted, That True Stevens, Newel Stanyan and John Stevens, their associates and successors, be and hereby

are created a Corporation by the name of the WENTWORTH INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BAND, with all rights, powers, privileges and immunities appertaining to such corporations under the laws of the State of New Hampshire."

This band no doubt did valiant service on muster days and quite likely at other times.

### WENTWORTH MECHANIC ASSOCIATION

About this same period there was another act of incorporation of much interest which runs as follows:

ACT OF DECEMBER 21, 1832

"Be it enacted, etc., That Ebenezer Gove, Elisha Clifford, Reuben Clifford, Edward Gove, Daniel Clark, Jr., Peter Dearborn, John Smart and Seth Ford, their associates and successors are incorporated under above title, for the purpose of benevolence and for promoting useful improvement and knowledge in the Mechanic Arts."

The following sections enabled the association to hold personal and real estate, make, have and use a seal, elect officers and establish by-laws, and that Ebenezer Gove be authorized to call the first meeting.

Mention of the organization in 1830 of the Congregational Society has already been made.

There had been for many years in town quite a respectable number who professed the Universalist faith. At one time the followers of these tenets constituted a majority of the church-going people in the community.

Due in a large measure to the labors of the Rev. John E. Palmer, a Universalist society was organized in the year of 1837.

Among the leading members of this church can be mentioned Caleb Keith, Esq., John Currier, Samuel Ellsworth, Robert Eames, Wolcott Dana, Winthrop Gove, William Gove, Isaac Clifford, Mrs. Samuel Eames and Widow Susannah Bean.

At this period, an agreement was made between the different societies, by the terms of which each denomination used the church on alternate Sundays or on such dates as had been previously agreed upon.

Included in this league, as it may be called, were the Methodists, who for some years had an active society in the town, with preaching at intervals.

In addition to what has already been mentioned, was a society of Free Will Baptists, who had meetings in schoolhouses or sometimes at the houses of the different members. It does not appear that either the Methodists or the Free Will Baptists had at any time a minister regularly settled in the town. The services being conducted usually by preachers who came from elsewhere for the occasion.

The Free Baptist Society finally built on Atwell Hill a good chapel where most of their services in later years were held. This chapel is still standing and is in good condition: it is used from time to time for

church purposes, as occasion requires. During the past summer several services conducted by the Rev. Mr. Sargent being held in this chapel.

After this digression we will mention a few more prominent townsmen of this period. The professional men being described in separate chapters will not be spoken of here.

John F. A. Peabody arrived in town during 1826. He at once began to develop on the South Branch the mill site known later as Colburn's Mills. Peabody was an active and substantial citizen. He was selectman in 1832, 1857 and 1858 and representative in 1840-41. After running his mills on the South Branch successfully for some twenty-five years he sold out to the Colburns and moved to the west side of the river where he lived on the place later owned by John Marston and remained on that place apparently during the rest of his career in town.

William McQuesten, born in 1680, emigrated from the county of Argyle, Scotland to America and died in Litchfield, N. H., in 1769.

A descendant of the first William was William Danforth McQuesten, born in Plymouth, January 15, 1795. He came from Plymouth to Wentworth probably in 1820. Here he was engaged for several years in trade. He was, during the thirty-five years he lived in town, almost constantly in office. He was deputy



sheriff for a long time, selectman in 1838-39 and representative in 1844-45.

He acted as agent for the town in several law suits, of which the town always seemed to have an ample supply, and as an auditor his name is affixed to a majority of the town accounts for a period of more than twenty years.

When the railroad station was opened in 1851, Mr. McQuesten was appointed the first station agent and held this position until the end of his life.

His wife was Charlotte Haines, a Wentworth woman. They lived in the house facing the village common, now owned by Mrs. Taplin.

Danforth McQuesten, by which name he appears to have been known, when he was not more familiarly spoken of as "Squire Mack," died December 10, 1855.

Of the three children of William Danforth and Charlotte (Haines) McQuesten, one son, William, died in early manhood. The other son, Charles, was for some time and until his death, a partner in the general store of Hammond and McQuesten in the village.

Their daughter Martha, possibly better remembered by the present generation as Mrs. Newell Stanyan, had much musical ability. She for twenty years and more was the capable and efficient organist at the village church and highly regarded by all who knew her.



Charles' son, William Danforth, who bears his grandfather's name, has in recent years been a substantial benefactor to the Village Cemetery Association as well as mayor of Mount Vernon, N. Y., where he now lives.

Winthrop Gove, son of Capt. Ebenezer Gove, was for thirty years or more a prominent and very useful citizen and saw much service on the board of selectmen.

Among other leading men during these years may be mentioned Jonathan Eames, Jr., known familiarly as "Bachelor" Eames (although finally married he still kept his title); Aaron Currier, town treasurer for many years and twice representative; Luke Aiken, selectman, representative and finally register of deeds, Grafton County; Fayette and Ferdinand Kezer, Zechariah Clifford, and from Ellsworth Hill, the brothers William and Henry Johnson should at least be mentioned as being of prominence; a grandson of William Johnson (Rufus Blodgett) became in later years a United States senator from New Jersey, while two more of his grandsons (Henry A. and George K. Webster) are gratefully remembered as the donors of the splendid "Webster Memorial Library."

It seems a pity to close this rambling account without mention of the town's first historian. This

was Simeon Smith, son of Simeon Smith, the pioneer, usually known from his occupation as "Tailor" Smith. He was a little fidgety man who was for many years the chief authority on all matters pertaining to the history of the town and its people. At his death in 1858 he was the oldest man who was born in town.

Part of his history he put in writing some of which is still in existence. The most of it, however, he kept in his head. This part unfortunately passed with him. He helped greatly, however, in preserving much information in regard to the early period of the town's affairs, "All of which, he saw and a part of which, he was."

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1850

In order to convey to the reader an idea of what constituted the resources and business of the community in the year 1850, at which time the highest degree of development had been attained, as well as for the purpose of historical record, we will briefly describe conditions as they existed in that year, as shown by the selectmen's accounts.

The town's population was 1,197, the highest in its history. The tax list contains 323 names; of these, fourteen were Ellsworths, while thirteen were Kimballs. The selectmen were Rufus Stevens, Cyrus

Johnson and Joseph Colburn. The five largest owners of real estate, with the amount of their valuation for that year were as follows: Joshua Blaisdell, \$5,764.00; John Currier, \$3,136.00; Jesse Eaton, \$3,978.00; Robert Eames, \$3,166.00; Fayette Kezer, \$2,900.00. Rodney and Harrison Messer were taxed on 36 horses; they were the contractors then engaged in building the new railroad and did not remain in town after their work was done. No townsman had more than four horses at this time. Benjamin Woodbury had four while Joseph Caverly and John Currier had each three horses. Cyrus Johnson had the largest number of cattle. Marshall H. H. Breck had 124 head of sheep and led all competitors in that direction.

Contrary to what may be the general impression there were not large land holders then in town. Large owners of timber land are not found in the tax list, while our modern holding companies were then unknown.

Of the farmers, John Currier, Robert Eames, Jona. Eames, Jesse Eaton, Fayette Kezer, Ferdinand Kezer, James K. Page and Jeremiah Smart were among those owning the most real estate.

Putnam Spaulding, whose property consisted of real estate, stock in trade and cash on hand, was the largest taxpayer. Joshua S. Blaisdell was a good second in line. The brick yard was taxed to Peter C.

Hobbs and Silvester Sanders jointly for \$100. Oliver S. Cole, Saul Spaulding, Putnam Spaulding and Joshua S. Blaisdell, all had stock in trade, the two latter in large amounts.

Mills abounded. The largest mill property at that time was the one at the outlet of Orford Pond, owned by Jonathan Judkins. William Haines had the old saw mill at the village near the bridge. John F. A. Peabody had the mills on the South Branch, known later for many years as Colburn's Mills. Owners or at least proprietors of other and smaller mills of various sorts and kinds were John L. Brown, Josiah P. Brown, Alpha C. Jewett, Daniel Merrill, Jr., Ephraim Merrill, Dustin F. Mellen, Jeremiah Smart, Rufus Stevens, Reuben Witcher and John Witcher.

These mills were of all kinds, saw mills and different kinds of woodworking establishments being the most numerous. There were, however, at least two grist mills, one clover mill, one carding and fulling mill, also one tannery if not more. At least three cider mills were in active operation; there were probably more than that.

Even if most of these mills were small, the above list shows very plainly that a substantial amount of mill business was done at this time in the township.

There were at this time ten school districts, numbered one to ten; the school money in these several



districts was disbursed by the following men as prudential committees for the year:

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| John Pillsbury.....    | District No. 1 |
| James K. Page.....     | “ “ 2          |
| Maynard W. Davis.....  | “ “ 3          |
| Samuel Sargent.....    | “ “ 4          |
| Alfred Hobbs.....      | “ “ 5          |
| John Foster Jr.....    | “ “ 6          |
| Uriah Colburn Jr.....  | “ “ 7          |
| John L. Brown.....     | “ “ 8          |
| Solomon Spaulding..... | “ “ 9          |
| Albert Pillsbury.....  | “ “ 10         |

The whole amount of school money for the year was \$494.33. District No. 2 received the largest amount, \$94.76 while District No. 3 got \$24.60, the smallest sum paid to any one of the districts. It is very doubtful if the average length of the school year throughout the town was at this time in excess of fourteen weeks.

There were funds amounting to \$34.44 to be divided among the several religious societies of the town and we find there was allotted to the Universalists, \$16.80; Congregationalists, \$6.30; Methodists, \$4.76; Free Will Baptists, \$5.32; and to John L. Brown, \$1.26.

There were then in town twenty-four highway districts. Beginning with district number one and continuing in numerical order, the surveyors were as listed below, to wit:



|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| John Pillsbury   | Jesse Stetson      |
| Luther Clifford  | Benjamin Ellsworth |
| Edson Rollins    | William Kimball    |
| Wallace Kimball  | John Sanders       |
| Joseph Colburn   | Daniel Hobbs       |
| David Gove       | Ebenezer Swain     |
| Samuel Fellows   | Clark Harris       |
| Oliver S. Cole   | Ward Batchelder    |
| John Loud        | Hazen Clough       |
| Ebenezer Atwell  | Jonas Sawyer       |
| Wolcott Dana     | Benjamin Martin    |
| Fayette C. Kezer | William U. Bailey  |

The whole amount of highway money for the year was \$717.51.

Some of the districts were very small. Three of them were allowed less than \$10.00 apiece. District No. 8, whose surveyor was Oliver S. Cole, received \$153.53; no other district got over \$50.00.

Quite a lot of money, however, was expended by the selectmen during the year on roads and bridges, in addition to what has been shown in the above account. One new road was laid out and built as can be seen by the following items: "Paid Thomas Kimball for land damages for road, \$36.00; paid David Boyd for damages on land for the road which was laid out by the commissioners, \$18.00." Then follows a long list of payments made "For labor on the new road."

The town paid in 1850, for state tax, \$157.80; for county tax, \$349.46; for bounty on crows, \$12.80.

A new school house was built during the year in District No. 9 at a cost of \$85.09. One other item is worthy of notice, viz.:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Paid to soldiers of the Phalanx Company..     | \$150.00 |
| Paid to soldiers of the Infantry Company..    | 26.00    |
| Paid to soldiers for rations on Muster day... | 26.50    |

We are also forcibly reminded in this account of the solemn fact that the poor have always been with us. The pauper bill for the year amounted to \$690.94. It was no doubt because of these large pauper bills that the town soon voted to buy and maintain a town farm and soon found they had made a change from bad to worse.

All told, the receipts for the year were \$4,239.20; expenses for the year were \$4,188.86, leaving on hand a surplus of \$50.34. There were, however, notes outstanding amounting to \$1,382.77, which represents the amount of the town debt at that time.

Before closing this chapter, a word should be said about the "Wentworth Phalanx" Military Company mentioned above.

Thomas J. Whipple, known in after years as "Colonel Whipple," was educated in part at least at the Norwich (Vt.) Military Academy. His taste for military life was early displayed and may have been in part due to impressions received at this academy.

While he was still young, there was enlisted, or-

ganized and drilled in town, a company known as the "Phalanx." This company was raised largely by his efforts and he became its captain.

In time the company became well equipped with arms and uniforms: they were drilled as soldiers and recognized eventually as the crack military organization of the whole region. They received extra pay and allowance from the town and appear to have been worth it from a military standpoint. The company was maintained until the militia system was abolished in 1851. The arms of this company were, however, retained in town for some years, being finally returned to the state. Several men, trained in the "Phalanx," saw service later in the Civil War. One of this number (John O. Stevens) died in the Peach Orchard at Gettysburg on the fateful day of July 2, 1863.

"Seek out, less often sought than found,  
A soldier's grave, for thee the best"

would have been in his case, a fitting epitaph.

With this perhaps too much extended review of the condition of our town in the year 1850, when it can fairly be said to have reached its zenith, this chapter can properly be closed.

A new era had now dawned, the so-called age of steam. The tremendous changes which this was destined to make in our rural as well as in our urban

communities was little realized at the time, and after a lapse of eighty years, the end is not yet in sight and cannot now be predicted with any degree of certainty. The answer has not as yet been found.

## CHAPTER V—1850–1870

TOWN FARM ESTABLISHED — FLOOD OF 1856 —  
COMING OF THE CIVIL WAR — WAR TIMES IN  
TOWN — MEN WHO SERVED — POST WAR  
PERIOD

### THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD, 1850–1870

The thread of our narrative will now be resumed with the opening of the railroad in 1851. The immediate result in town was a rise in the value of real estate, which gained largely in price. Lumbering increased and a large new sawmill, known as Mellen's Mill, was built just above the village on the Pond Brook.

The owner of this mill, Dustin F. Mellen, appears to have been successful in business. This mill was the first to be equipped with a circular saw. The days of the old style, up today and down tomorrow, board saws were now numbered. There was also now a market for railroad ties. The hemlocks of Wentworth furnished for years thousands of such ties, which were always hewn with the broad ax in the woods wherever the trees happened to grow. Many farmers made, during the winter months, quite a feature of getting out cordwood and ties for sale to the railroad.



The railroad worked at once, however, to the detriment of the hotel or tavern keepers. The wayside inns, which had grown up everywhere along all of the main roads, were one by one forced, for lack of patronage, to go out of business. The old hotel at the village, however, was kept open until it was destroyed in 1890 by fire.

In 1851 the selectmen made apparently what would now be called a drive, in an effort to locate and tax the cash on hand, as well as money at interest, of sundry citizens.

As the two lawyers then in town, Judge Sargent and Samuel Herbert, Esq., were both among those "doomed" in the inventory of that year, it is not believed this movement originated with the lawyers, or that the selectmen were acting upon their advice in the matter.

At this time the town seems to have been the legal center for all the region roundabout.

There were, in addition to the two eminent lawyers just mentioned, William D. McQuesten and Henry Johnson, justices of the peace and quorum, while Aaron Jewett, John F. A. Peabody, William Moore, James Atwell, Newell Stanyan, Peter L. Hoyt, George S. Dean, John Currier, Jonathan P. Burnham, M. H. H. Breck and Alonzo A. Whipple were, all of them, justices of the peace.

Probate court was held then in town in February and August of each year.

The year of 1851 saw the abolishment of the militia; Wentworth was then included in the 35th Regiment and had the following regimental officers: lieutenant-colonel, Rawson Z. Clifford; adjutant, David Stanyan; quartermaster, Lyman Whitcher.

The justices of the peace of 1851 were evidently overworked, or not able to keep up with the business; during the next two years their number was increased by the addition of Jeremiah Blodgett, Putnam Spaulding, Cyrus Johnson, Elijah Rollins, Wolcott Dana, Joshua S. Blaisdell and Thomas J. Smith.

Judge Sargent was, during these years, beyond a doubt the leading public man of the town. He went to the legislature, and in 1854 was elected speaker of the House.

He was Senator in 1855 and elected president of the Senate; these elections are a testimony to his ability as well as giving to his home town a measure of political importance.

Political and partizan spirit was at this time very high, and the disturbing political questions that in a very few years brought about the Civil War were everywhere making for discussion, debate and bitterness; Wentworth was no exception to this rule. Political issues were carried even into

the church societies, to their detriment, it must be admitted.

The present generation does not understand and probably would never believe that partizan and political feeling could go to the extreme lengths attained previous to and during the Civil War. All that is necessary to convince the most sceptical upon this point, however, is for them to study for a while the files of some newspapers printed during these years and note the language used. Our present political campaigns are as mild as the meeting of a Rotary Club compared with the campaigns of the past. Every individual and every action appears to have been weighed during these years on the political scale and became the object of either fulsome eulogy or vindictive abuse, according to the partizan bias of the writer or speaker. The town was rather evenly balanced politically. Elections were bitterly contested and fought to a finish in the same bitter spirit. This political bias even crept into the courts and juries of those days, and the issues were in some instances decided not by the evidence presented but by political affiliations and influence apparently.

The town was now each year paying a substantial sum for the support of the town poor. It was finally decided a town farm should be established. Up to this time the poor had been supported either in their

own homes or in private families, as was deemed best by the town officials.

In some towns, and perhaps in ours, it was at times the practice to invite bids for the support of the indigent and dependent members of society, with unfortunate results in some cases. There is very little evidence, however, that the practice of putting up at auction the town's poor ever was practiced much in Wentworth, although it may have been in some instances.

As a result of the agitation for an almshouse or "poor farm," as it was generally called, the town in 1853 voted to buy of James K. Page the place now owned by Clarence Eaton and originally settled by Ephraim Page.

The price paid was \$4,730 which included, it is believed, some personal property as well as the real estate. This was one of the best farms in town and the house was large and well built.

A town farm was kept here for some fifteen years. The financial results were not up to the expectations of the taxpayers, and in 1868 the town voted, under an appropriate article in the warrant, to authorize the selectmen to "Sell the Town Farm soon as practicable," and the farm was sold the same year to Wolcott Dana at a price that cannot now be ascertained.

In the year of 1856 occurred the disastrous flood



and washout that ruined practically all the mills located along the Pond Brook, except the Mellen Mill. On the 6th of August, following a rainfall of nine inches in forty-eight hours, the dam at the outlet of Baker's Ponds gave away. The disaster that followed is well described by Dr. Hoyt, and his article will be found in full in another chapter.

It suffices here to say this flood ruined the main industrial portion of the village. Several dwelling houses with their outbuildings, mills and shops of various kinds, about an acre of land in the village proper, more or less highway, the bridge near the Franklin Eaton house, as well as several bridges on the South Branch, can be mentioned as a part of the losses sustained by the town as a consequence of this freshet.

The village never fully recovered from the blow sustained at this time, and on the spot where was once located mills, houses and gardens, there is today a naked ledge, the picture of ruin and desolation.

About this time some fairs were held in town on the Robert Eames land, later owned by Max Whitcher; in 1855 a county fair was held on this ground on September 21 and 22.

There is no doubt this was a festive occasion for the townspeople; some two thousand people were in attendance. This fair perhaps made up, for the time



being, to the young people as well as some older ones, for the loss of the muster days, hitherto the great events in their experience.

During this period a new and strange contraption called a mowing machine made its appearance. The first ones were not very practical and probably pulled up by the roots more grass than they cut off; as a companion to the mower, was a horse rake with wooden teeth, clumsy and clattering in its operation. These imperfect machines were, however, the fore-runners of our present mowers and horse rakes.

Up to about this time all work on the land or in the woods had been done by oxen. During the early years of the town's history but few horses were kept. These were used almost wholly as saddle horses. To be able to own and use a chaise was for years, in town, the height of luxury.

In 1810 there were but two chaises in town. One belonged to Squire Caleb Keith, the other to Doctor David Gibson. The doctors of those days, we find, as a rule traveled on horseback.

Of course the condition of the roads had something to do with this state of affairs. There were, we find, but few horses kept before 1820 and still fewer wagons. The patient ox was the farmer's mainstay, and a yoke of oxen almost as much of a necessity as a Ford car is today to an average citizen. It is rather doubtful if

there is a man in town today who could or would make an ox-yoke, and about as doubtful if there are any who would use one.

A good deal of lumbering was done during these years. The south part of the town in particular had several sawmills at about this time as well as some charcoal burners, and did quite a business. The original splendid growth of pine was gone, but there was still a good deal of spruce and hemlock. The firm of A. L. Brooks of Lowell, Mass., lumbered many winters in town; their logs were floated down the river as soon as the ice went out in the spring.

This log drive was a yearly event; several men from town went usually on this drive to Lowell, the trip taking from two to three months. The men ate baked beans generally three times a day, every day while on the drive, and called for more beans as soon as they got back home.

In the years just before the Civil War, the leading storekeepers were Joshua S. Blaisdell and Albert S. Hammond, both men of good business ability. John Whitcher had now moved from the south part of the town to the village. He did much lumbering and was generally prominent in affairs. He was chairman of the Board of Selectmen for eight years and during the entire duration of the Civil War.

Samuel G. and Lorenzo W. Currier were now com-

ing into prominence in town affairs. Both of them were destined to be more or less in public life as selectmen, town clerk or representative during the next thirty years.

Stephen Aldrich was doing business at what became later Brown's Mills. William Haines, Jr., was running the old Aiken Mill at the village. Josiah P. Brown had a mill in Rowentown. James F. Colburn owned the mills built by Peabody on the South Branch.

The tax list for 1858 contained the names of seventeen Ellsworths and eleven Kimballs. Judge Sargent that year paid the largest tax. The selectmen received during the year \$6,489.37, and reported a net debt at the close of their account of \$3,657.84; the tax rate appears to have been \$2.23.

The census of 1860 showed a population of 1056, a loss since 1850 of 141, and marked the beginning of the decline of the population. Emigration to the new states of the West had set in strongly by this time and lasted for many years.

The year of 1860 was politically eventful and disturbing. The clouds of impending civil war slowly gathering over the nation for an entire generation were now rapidly becoming darker and more intense.

With the firing upon Fort Sumter in April, 1861, by the armed forces of the Southern States, the storm

of civil war broke in all its fury upon a divided and discordant nation.

There is no evidence that the outbreak of the war was hailed with any degree of enthusiasm by the population of Wentworth. Enlistments during 1861 were few in number. On April 15, 1861, President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 men to serve for three months. By act of Congress of May 3, 1861, the President was given authority to enlist 500,000 men for three years or during the war.

The first man from Wentworth to enlist was Alba C. Haines on May 3, 1861. He expected to serve in the 1st N. H. Regiment, which was composed of men enlisted for only three months. This regiment was raised so quickly that Haines did not get a chance to enter it.

The 2nd N. H. Regiment, raised under the call of May 3 for 500,000 men, was now being organized, and Haines reënlisted on May 21, 1861, in this regiment, serving throughout the war in Co. G, enlisting for the third time in February, 1864.

He had an excellent record as a soldier. From July 1, 1864, until the close of the war he was color sergeant.

To have been color bearer in a combat regiment, such as the 2nd N. H. certainly was, is a lasting tribute to his fidelity and capacity as a soldier. After



the war closed, Haines was for many years a freight conductor on the B. C. & M. R. R., and died in Lancaster.

John O. Stevens enlisted in May, 1861, in Co. B, 2nd N. H. He had an honorable record as corporal and sergeant, and lost his life in the bloody Peach Orchard at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. His body was recovered, brought home and buried in the East Side cemetery.

There appears to have been no more recruits from Wentworth, until late in 1861. During November and December of that year, the 6th Regiment was raised by enlistment.

A squad of six men from Wentworth enlisted as original members of this regiment, namely: Joseph G. Cross, Sebastian S. Getchell, George Holbrook, Hollis K. May, Albert C. Smith, and Charles Wallace.

Of these men, Getchell, entering the service as private, was steadily promoted, finally being commissioned first lieutenant of Co. G, and seems to be clearly entitled to special mention.

George Holbrook and Charles Wallace both died in the army of disease. Albert Smith was wounded severely at Antietam, Md., and discharged. He later served another enlistment, however, on the quota of Rumney.

During the year of 1861 three Wentworth men en-



listed outside the state: Rodney Eames and Hiram Farnsworth enlisting in Vermont regiments, while Willard Simpson enlisted in the 18th Massachusetts Infantry, serving almost five years on the quota of that state.

A special town meeting was called for November 23, 1861; one article in the warrant was "To see if the town will vote to raise money for the support of volunteers enlisted in the service of the United States."

On July 2, 1862, the President issued a call for 300,000 men to serve for three years.

In order to assist in filling the quota of the town under this call, it was voted on August 26, 1862, "To pay all who enlisted before September 1st, 1862, \$200 each."

At this time the 12th Regiment was being rapidly raised. It was expected that Col. Thomas J. Whipple was to command this regiment in the field. This may perhaps explain in part why the men of his native town, many of whom as boys must have known him more or less intimately, enlisted so largely in this regiment.

According to official records, the Wentworth men in the 12th N. H. were:

Orlando Boyd  
George C. Breck

Albert Burnham  
Patrick O. Casey

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| George C. Chase      | Thomas J. Ellsworth |
| William O. Chase     | Caleb Hoyt          |
| Homer Eames          | David P. Hoyt       |
| James C. Eames       | Lyman Kimball       |
| Bartlett Ellsworth   | Wellman Kimball     |
| Benjamin Ellsworth   | Solomon H. Kittrell |
| George W. Ellsworth  | George E. Patterson |
| James M. Ellsworth   | Cyrus J. Philbrick  |
| Jason C. Ellsworth   | Clinton F. Preston  |
| John C. Ellsworth    | Edward S. Smith     |
| Samuel Ellsworth     | James H. Stanyan    |
| William Wallace, Jr. |                     |

In all, twenty-seven men, of whom eight were Ellsworths.

Of these men, four, namely, Patrick O. Casey, Thomas J. Ellsworth, George W. Ellsworth and Homer Eames were killed in battle, while Cyrus J. Philbrick, Bartlett Ellsworth, Jason Ellsworth, Wellman Kimball and Edward S. Smith died in the army, of disease.

James M. Ellsworth, Caleb Hoyt and Solomon Kittrell were all severely wounded and suffered greatly from the effects of their wounds ever after.

Seven at least of the original twenty-seven were with the colors at the fall of Richmond, being among the first troops to enter the city.

Other enlistments during the year of 1862 from town included Nelson Daniels, enlisted on the quota of Rumney in Co. F, 9th N. H. and died of disease in

January, 1863; George W. Kenney, enlisted in Co. G, 6th Vermont Infantry, credited to Orange, Vt. He served until the close of the war; Amon W. Clifford, enlisted August 30, 1862, in Co. E, 1st Regiment, U. S. Sharpshooters. He died of disease November 12, 1862, at Washington, D. C., and was buried in the Foster Cemetery.

The quota of the town up to about January 1, 1863, was 52 men, while the town now claimed a credit against this of 51 men enlisted.

With the coming of 1863 it was only too evident that the volunteer system, which is well enough perhaps in times of peace, had failed as it always did, and always will when subjected to the test of actual war.

Conscription was already in force in the South and was now about to be put into effect in the North. Enrollments were made during the spring and summer of 1863 of all liable for military service, and showed the town had then 149 men subject to draft.

On September 8, 1863, the town voted to pay each man drafted and accepted, \$300, and to raise \$6,000 on the credit of the town for this purpose, the quota of the town on the first draft being 20 men.

The result of the first draft which was made at the headquarters of the Provost Marshal at West Lebanon on September 15, 1863, was awaited in town with interest and anxiety.

Quite a large number who were liable for service preferred to pay \$300 as commutation and did so, thus being released from their liability.

With the putting into effect of conscription, voluntary enlistments practically ceased. The quota of the town henceforth was filled largely by hired substitutes.

At this time substitutes were hired for about \$300 each. Prices increased greatly, so that during the last months of 1864, and until the end of the war, a bounty of \$1,200 was paid as a rule to the late recruits.

The substitute system is wrong in principle and a failure in practice.

It would be unfair as well as unjust to denounce all the men who entered the army as substitutes, many of whom had, as soldiers, a creditable record. But taken as a whole, the most that can be said is simply that they were, as a class, mercenaries with all which that implies.

In many cases they were the riff-raff of the earth. A large per cent deserted at the first opportunity. Some men never even reached the regiments to which they had been assigned, but deserted en route in order to enlist again elsewhere under another name and incidentally receive another large bounty.

On July 18, 1864, there was another call for 500,000 men, as it was now impossible to fill the quotas by



enlistment; all towns were now paying large bounties and hiring substitutes. The town's quota at this time was twelve men. On August 13, 1864, the town voted "To hire \$10,000 as bounty to soldiers to fill the quota of the town."

The last draft was September 21, 1864, about six months before the close of the war.

Enlistments came in slowly during the later part of the war. But we find James S. Howard enlisted in August, 1864, in the 7th Vermont Infantry, serving on the quota of Topsham, Vt.

Towards the close of the war several of the older men, whose terms of service had expired, reënlisted, notably Alba Haines, Albert Smith, Hiram Farnsworth and Willard Simpson. Lewis E. Brown, who enlisted September 2, 1864, in Co. G, Heavy Artillery, was one of the last recruits.

All told, it can be stated that twenty-seven substitutes served at some time during the war on the quota of the town. They were divided among the different regiments as follows:

*2nd N. H. Vols.*

William Wardrobe

*4th N. H. Vols.*

William H. Coffin

*5th N. H. Vols.*

Thomas Keating

Peter Lawson

*6th N. H. Vols.*

Thomas E. Cox

Levi Founier

Samuel B. Harbison

Elijah O. Harwood

Rufus Howe

William Kerr



Almon D. Lewis  
 Alexander Miller  
 James Morrill  
 Hial A. Osgood  
*7th N. H. Vols.*

James B. Conway  
 Charles Edwards  
 James Howard  
*8th N. H. Vols.*

Frederick DeWilder  
 Charles Dixon

Francis Despierre  
 William Goldsmith  
 Thomas Mahanna  
 Andrew Quigley  
 Frank Thompson

*9th N. H. Vols.*  
 William Buckner  
 Richardson Howland

*1st N. H. Cavalry*  
 Chancey H. Miner

As a matter of justice, it can here be said some of these men had a good record in the army. Ten of them were in the field when the curtain fell at Appomattox.

William Kerr, serving in the 6th Regiment, was captured at Poplar Springs Church, Va., and died of disease and starvation in the Salisbury, N. C., Confederate Prison.

Almon Lewis and James Morrill died in the army, of disease.

Chancey Miner, a boy of only eighteen, born in Littleton, was the last recruit to go from Wentworth. He entered the army in March, 1865, and saw no service.

Mention should also be made of two more men who went from Wentworth to the war. The records made by these men in the army does them or the town no credit, but in order to make the list as complete as possible it should be stated:

Byron Smith, a native of Orford, served in Co. F, 4th N. H., enlisting August 22, 1861. Smith was sentenced in June, 1863, to two years in prison and dishonorably discharged from the army.

Benjamin F. Martin, better known as Frank Martin, was in the army. One account assigns him to the 6th, N. H. If he ever served in that regiment it was under an assumed name. The tradition is he deserted and became a bounty jumper during the latter part of the war. Some months after the war closed he returned home and died in town.

From the foregoing it can be seen there were, from Wentworth, 39 men serving on the quota of the town, 6 men serving on the quotas of other towns, 27 substitutes, a total of 72 men in all.

Reckoned on the basis of the number of enlistments, the town furnished nearly 80 soldiers, as one man enlisted three times and several, twice each.

Below is given, as a matter of interest, the names of nineteen soldiers born in Wentworth but who went from other places into the army. Their military service is credited to other towns in the official records.

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Elbridge Avery     | 8th N. H. Vols.  |
| John O. Barnes     | 11th N. H. Vols. |
| John C. Currier    | 11th N. H. Vols. |
| Amos P. Foster     | 6th N. H. Vols.  |
| Frederick P. Hardy | 6th N. H. Vols.  |
| James E. Haynes    | 4th N. H. Vols.  |

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Nestor Haines       | 1st and 8th N. H.       |
| Carey Hobbs         | 12th N. H. Vols.        |
| Charles P. Hobbs    | 4th N. H. Vols.         |
| Fernando Hobbs      | 14th N. H. Vols.        |
| Alonzo W. Jewett    | 12th N. H. Vols.        |
| Olof L. Jewett      | 12th N. H. Vols.        |
| George H. Rainey    | 7th N. H. Vols.         |
| Albert Sanders      | 5th N. H. Vols.         |
| Benjamin Smith      | 17th Inf. U. S. A.      |
| Luther Smith        | 5th N. H. Vols.         |
| James Webb          | U. S. Navy              |
| Thomas J. Whipple   | 1st and 4th N. H. Vols. |
| Charles C. Whitcher | 7th N. H. Vols.         |

Some of these men had splendid records as soldiers.

Thomas J. Whipple as lieutenant-colonel, 1st N. H. and colonel, 4th N. H. Vols., achieved the highest rank. Frederick P. Hardy, Nestor Haines and Alonzo Jewett were all commissioned officers when the war closed, having earned their commissions on the field.

John O. Barnes, Carey Hobbs, Charles P. Hobbs, Olof Jewett and Albert Sanders were killed in battle or mortally wounded; several were severely wounded. George Rainey, awarded the Gilmore Medal of Honor, for bravery, was later killed in battle at Olustee, Fla. Elbridge Avery, Nestor Haines and Charles Whitcher, each served two enlistments.

Taken as a whole, the above group of men rendered distinguished service in the army, as the above very brief statement will sufficiently show.

In the military roster, which will be found in the back part of this volume, is the abridged record of all the above men as well as brief notices of several veterans who have lived more or less in town since the close of the war.

We will close this account by making mention of Comrade Charles H. Sprague, now in his eighty-eighth year, the last survivor of the soldiers of the Civil War in town.

Charles H. Sprague was born in Dexter, Maine, July 28, 1841. He enlisted in October, 1861, in the 3rd Maine Light Artillery. This regiment spent the following winter camped in Augusta, Maine, back of the State House and were quartered in cloth tents. The regiment went to Washington in the spring of 1862, serving later as part of the pioneer corps during the Fredericksburg, Va., campaign and afterwards.

In 1864, Mr. Sprague reënlisted in the 18th Maine Heavy Artillery, Co. M. This regiment saw service in the Shenandoah Valley and was at the siege of Petersburg. Here they had a part in the Mine Explosion and saw the fall of Richmond. Mr. Sprague served three years and seven months in all and is now, in spite of his years, a good looking, well preserved man in body and mind.

The Civil War ended in April, 1865, and the soldiers returned one by one to their homes in town, re-



suming, for the most part, the same occupations they had formerly followed. Many of them retained their old army overcoats after their discharge, and the "faded coat of blue" was for years a familiar sight in town.

The war left the town saddled with a heavy debt which lasted for a generation. Taxes were high and burdensome and times by common consent generally hard. During the war period the town had, however, succeeded in finding enough money to build two large wooden lattice-covered bridges over Baker's River. One of these was at the village; the other near the Dr. Stevens place. This bridge, built in 1865, is still in use and bids fair to last for years to come.

The village bridge did not prove as durable, being replaced several years ago with a steel structure, having a sidewalk on one side.

The hill farms now began to decline in number and value. The gradual decay of the agriculture of our town had already commenced and still continues, to the great detriment of the community.

Extensive lumbering operations, which gained in volume, were carried on in various portions of the town during the years immediately following the close of the war.

It was during the Civil War period that a telegraph line was built, following the line of the railroad, and an office opened in the village.



This office was installed in the year 1862, in the store of Albert S. Hammond, later Eastman and Brown. Mr. Hammond was the first telegraph agent. The telegraph instruments were then the recording kind, printing the Morse code on a paper tape. The telegraph office was in this store until 1888, or about then. The office was then removed to the depot, where it has ever since been located, with the station agent as manager.

During November and December of 1863, the town was greatly afflicted by another outbreak of "Spotted Fever." The epidemic lasted for several weeks. The disease was not general throughout the town, being epidemic only on Atwell Hill.

Dr. Hoyt records about thirty cases occurring at this time and there were nineteen deaths. Many of the sick suffered for lack of proper care and nursing.

In some instances, an entire family would all be sick at the same time. As others were reluctant to expose themselves to the disease, believed to be contagious, it is easy to believe some of the sick ones suffered greatly for lack of care.

Deacon George S. Dean of the village, let it be recorded to his credit, did at this time all he was physically able to do.

He watched with and assisted in caring for the sick and helped to lay out and bury the bodies of

those who died. He did not contract the disease or suffer, except from fatigue, because of his efforts. The truth of Whittier's lines "That simple duty hath no place for fear" was in his case amply demonstrated.

There were many changes in the town's population during the period from 1860 to 1870. Judge Sargent, who had lived more or less out of town after his appointment to the Bench, removed to Concord. His fine house in Wentworth was burned in February, 1868, and about that time the Judge ceased to hold his residence in town.

Thomas J. Smith, Esq., who represented the town in the legislature for five years, 1861-65 and served as state senator in 1867-68, removed before 1870 to Dover, N. H., where he followed his profession.

It is a source of much regret to find the town was no longer attractive to men of the caliber of Judge Sargent and Lawyer Thomas J. Smith.

The Academy was now passing slowly but surely out of our picture. At the last an effort was made to run it as a private school. This attempt failed finally. The stockholders then sold the building, which was later converted into a public hall.

For some twenty years Joshua S. Blaisdell had been prominent in town affairs as merchant, business man and substantial citizen. In 1869 Mr. Blaisdell sold his store property to Kelley and Cleasby. He then

moved to Rhode Island, and died a citizen of that state.

Having mentioned some of the town's recent losses, it would be fitting now to speak of some gains made during the same period.

In the year 1633, Francis Plummer, "Linen Weaver," emigrated from Woolwich, England, to Boston. In 1635 he became one of the original grantees and settlers of Newbury, Mass., and died a citizen of Newbury.

A descendant of Francis, George Plummer was born in Upper Gilmanton, now Belmont, January 4, 1821. As a boy and young man he lived in Groton.

In 1851 he went via the Oregon Trail to the Pacific Coast. The trip was made in the "Covered Wagons," drawn by ox teams.

This journey of some two thousand miles through the Indian country lasted for five months.

He spent some seven years in Oregon and California before returning to his native state. Until the end of his long life, it was his greatest delight to recall and retell the adventures of this march across the plains and life in the western wilds. In 1861 Mr. Plummer bought of Jabez Hall the place on the Buffalo Road first settled about 1800 by Samuel Stevens. He moved to this farm from Hebron in February, 1862, with his wife, who was Frances, daughter of



HOME OF THE LATE GEORGE AND FRANCES PLUMMER





Abner Blodgett of Dorchester, and their infant daughter, Persis M.

A son, George F. and the youngest daughter, Lucinda B., were born in Wentworth.

Mr. Plummer was selectman in 1874-75 and representative in 1877-78, and always a thrifty farmer, good neighbor and respected citizen. Politically, he was a lifelong Democrat. He died on August 26, 1911, in his ninety-first year. Frances, his wife, died April 10, 1924, both being buried on the family lot in the village. The farm on the Buffalo Road is still held in the family.

Benjamin M. Libbey, one of the sons of the stalwart John Libbey of Warren, moved into town about the year 1866. He bought the Calvin Clifford farm on the upper east side. Here he lived until his death in 1929, at the great age of ninety-three. Here were born his sons, Fred E. and Walter S., both of whom became active in later years in the affairs of the town.

Mr. Libbey, like many of his race, was a well-built, deep-chested man, of uncommon strength and endurance. To hear him emit one of his peals of laughter was a privilege, although in this respect it must be admitted he was hardly the equal of his brother, George, whose good nature and stentorian voice were locally famous.

Mr. Benjamin Libbey was selectman for three

years, representative in 1887, held many minor town offices and always a good citizen, of a type now all too scarce.

Alfred Page came to town about 1865 with his family. He built, or at least rebuilt and enlarged, the building on main street now (1928) occupied by the family of the late John A. Davis. Here he had a large tin shop and did for many years a good business in tinware and stoves. He was representative in 1881. He was fond of the woods and found time nearly every fall to catch one or more bears on the mountain side, a feat which endeared him greatly to all the boys of the village.

Calvin T. Shute came about 1868 with his family from Gloucester, Mass., to the East Side, settling upon the Rawson Clifford farm.

In later years he built a house further up the hill near the Warren line and lived there until his death. The home is now owned by his son, Philip Shute of Concord, N. H. Mr. Shute was a keen-witted, well informed man with many of the attributes of a born orator. He was fond of discussion and argument, either public or private. He was an excellent debater, who took an active part in discussions at town meetings and elsewhere. He served as delegate to the constitutional conventions of 1912 and 1918.

Among the men active in town affairs during the

years we are now considering may be mentioned John Whitcher, chairman, Board of Selectmen, eight years; Lorenzo W. Currier, member of the Board several years, and chairman in 1867. Samuel B. Burnham and John Foster, both from the south part of the town, saw much service, too, upon the Board. William H. Moore, representative in 1866-67 and much of the time town clerk, and Col. Joseph Savage, representative in 1868-69, are entitled to be considered as prominent citizens and representative townsmen of this era.

The population of the town as shown by the census of 1870 was 971, a loss of 85 during the decade, 1860 to 1870.



## CHAPTER VI—1870-1890

CHANGES IN THE VILLAGE — FOUNDING THE PUBLIC  
LIBRARY — STANYANS HALL — ABOLISHMENT OF  
SCHOOL — AND HIGHWAY DISTRICTS

### THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS — 1870-1890

There were many changes wrought in the lives of the people of the town during the years around 1870; one of these which can be mentioned was the death, in 1871, of Doctor Hoyt. This sad event in connection with the gradual retirement of Dr. Whipple, who, prematurely old and enfeebled, gradually gave up his practice, removed both of the old doctors from the scene.

It is always hard to see our old family doctors go off the stage, but it must be said that Drs. Whitmore and Durkee were doing very well indeed to sustain the reputation of the medical profession in the town.

There was also a complete change of storekeepers in the village. The firm of Kelley and Cleasby, successors in trade to Joshua S. Blaisdell, did business but a short time. About 1870 they sold the store to John A. Davis and Franklin Eaton, who came from Dorchester, where they had been associated in business.

This partnership was successful and lasted for many years. They were both enterprising men and interested in the town and its welfare. William H. Davis, a cousin of John A., shortly acquired an interest in the store and retained it until 1890, or perhaps even later.

Albert S. Hammond, prominent for twenty years as merchant, postmaster, express agent, telegraph agent and leading citizen, in 1871 sold all his property in Wentworth and removed to Concord, where he lived as a merchant for many years, and died.

The purchasers of the Hammond store were James B. Brown and James Eastman. The firm of Eastman and Brown did a good business for some twenty years. Eastman finally withdrew from the firm; Mr. Brown continued in business until about 1910. He was, during all these years, successful in business and active and influential in town affairs. He was postmaster for more than thirty years in all. As the leader of the Republican or minority party in the town he was at all times adroit, resourceful and capable.

Of the children of James B. and Eva Merrill Brown the oldest son, Harry, became a successful lawyer. He lived and practised in Concord and died there. David, a graduate of Dartmouth, studied medicine and has practised his profession in Vermont. He later removed to Concord, where he now lives as a practising physician. The daughter Bessie married a Mr. Young, one

of the associates of the Parker-Young Co. of Lisbon. Mr. and Mrs. Brown settled in Concord after disposing of the store in Wentworth. Mr. Brown died in Concord some ten years ago, but Mrs. Brown still has her home there.

For twenty years the stores of Eaton Davis and Co. and Eastman and Brown were much more to the town than merely places where things could be bought. They were political headquarters for both parties, Chambers of Commerce, Bureaus of Information, club houses, and the forum, where there was no limit to debate, discussion or argument.

These public exchanges had two daily sessions: the first was from 8 A.M. to 3 P.M.; the second began at once after the close of the first and lasted until the tired storekeepers closed up for the night. Great quantities of tobacco were consumed at these gatherings. Those who had few affairs of their own to attend to formed a standing committee, which attended to everybody's business but their own. After the weather, some of the favorite topics for discussion were politics, the hard times, how to kill potato bugs, theology, the latest horse trade, how best to line wild bees and set bear traps, ethical questions of all kinds, the unruly boys, the incompetent officials, and when suckers would be most likely to run again. All the foregoing topics, besides many which have not been enumer-

ated, were cussed and discussed, stories were told and re-told, great adventures related and perhaps sometimes invented. By those who congregated daily at the stores to attend to their duties as a committee of the whole to consider the state of the nation, these debaters pointed with pride, viewed with alarm and shared the emotions of some of the over-anxious publicists of our present day — may they rest in peace.

Speaking in a general way, the town had declined in population and ambition ever since the coming of the railroad in 1851. There was, however, one notable exception to the above statement, to wit: there was developed soon after the close of the war one very substantial industry in town which lasted for years and provided employment to many of the townspeople.

A. L. and W. G. Brown, prominent for many years in the lumbering industry in the northern part of the state, had bought of Stephen Aldrich the property at the outlet of the Baker Ponds, first improved some sixty years before this by Aaron Jewett. They also acquired much timber land in Wentworth, Orford and Piermont. About 1867 they built a large well-equipped sawmill on the site at the outlet of the ponds, formally occupied by the Jewett mill. The locality has been known ever since as Brown's Mills. After the Browns



got fairly under way in this region they did an extensive business; for years it was the main industry of the town. The mill ran steadily about the whole year round. A steam engine was in use as an auxiliary to the water power during periods of drought or low water. The sawed lumber was hauled to Wentworth station for shipment by rail.

The movement over the brook road of so much heavy traffic cut up the road badly at the best, and in the spring during mud time the road was all but impassable for anything except the heavy lumber teams. In places it became almost a quagmire and the abomination of all who had occasion to use it.

The Browns did business at this mill for more than twenty years. During the last few years the mill ran it was operated only some three or four months in the spring and summer, as the lumber supply grew scarce and more remote. William Wallace Brown, always known in town as "Wall" Brown, the son of Alson L. Brown, became manager of the business in later years. During the last few years the mill ran, he lived upon the old Jewett place and died there. His sons, Alson L. and Oscar, now own the Brown property and are living near the site of the old mill. The house on the old Jewett place, for many years the home of Wallace Brown and his family, was burned in 1928 by a fire of unexplained origin.

In 1872 Elias M. Blodgett moved from Dorchester to Wentworth, and was one of the foremost citizens of the town for the next forty years. He was engaged at various times in farming, as a miller and grain dealer, and in the lumber business. He served several years as selectman and as chairman of the Board in 1913. He was a man who made his own decisions and inclined to be original in speech and action. Politically he was a thorough going Independent if there ever was one. His private life was at all times exemplary. His son, Fred W. Blodgett, succeeded his father in the lumber business, and lives now on the home place in the outskirts of the village in the house where his father lived for many years and died.

The mention of the name of Blodgett at this time naturally brings to mind the subject of "Uncle Jerry," who was very widely known, and in political circles at least a leader in town for the thirty years, from 1850 to 1880. A brief sketch of his life and activities deserves a place in this work. The Hon. Jeremiah Blodgett was born in Hudson, N. H., then Nottingham West, March 10, 1806, and died in New Haven, Conn., August 2, 1881. He grew up in Dorchester. His first wife was Amanda, daughter of Deacon William and Hannah Brown Johnson of Wentworth. She died February 9, 1849. Of their seven children, most of whom died at an early age, Rufus, who in

later years became a citizen of New Jersey and distinguished there in railroad, financial and political circles, and Louise J., who after a successful career as school teacher married John Atwell, a Wentworth man by birth living in Peacham, Vt., are best remembered in town. His second wife was Ann Blodgett Burns of Rumney, who outlived her husband.

Jeremiah Blodgett was a man of striking personality with a keen and active mind. Many still living recall his tall, gaunt figure, bony frame, piercing eyes and, if occasion required, torrent of speech or anecdote which he could, and did, disburse at any time or place or in any kind of society. As a story teller he was without an equal. It was, however, as a political leader that he became most famous. Always a staunch Democrat he never did anything by halves, and the furtherance of his political ideas became with him the main object of his life. He greatly loved children and possessed their esteem and good will even in his old age to an unusual extent.

Among the offices filled by Mr. Blodgett during his long and active career, we enumerate: Representative from Dorchester, 1842-43; deputy sheriff, 1846-1856; member constitutional conventions of 1850 and 1876; representative from Wentworth, 1870-71-72; member Governor's Council in 1875 and 1877. Mr. Blodgett was always a man of simple tastes and not active in



business affairs, especially his own business which was apparently to him a matter of small concern. He owned and lived in the house in the upper part of the village now owned by Grover Breck. Mr. Blodgett was always a strong, robust man, enjoying excellent health until a few weeks before he died. His funeral was largely attended, the services being at the church. He, with most of the members of his immediate family, are buried in the family lot at the village.

About 1873, the precise date seems hard to determine, an organized effort to establish a free public library was made. Popular subscriptions were solicited which met with a very fair response from the townspeople. There were also many donations of books. A fair lasting two nights was held in Stanyans Hall, then newly opened to the public. This fair was conducted in the usual manner; candy and articles of needlework were on sale. Several paintings, or perhaps only good imitations of such, and a large, gorgeous wreath made of worsted and handsomely framed were disposed of by a sort of lottery. Local actors presented "Ten Nights in a Bar Room." Among those in the cast were Ebenezer Gove, Oliver Cole and George Sherwell. This play was the first taste of theatricals that many children present had ever had, and they were impressed accordingly. In one way or another



enough money was raised to get about 500 books, including those donated.

In due time the library was opened in an upstairs room in the wing, or ell, of the W. A. Flanders house. The library was kept here until the town bought the small building, at one time used as a law office by J. C. Story. The building was then moved to its present location near the church, where it now stands, being used by the selectmen as their office.

Here the library was kept until the opening in 1917 of the splendid Webster Memorial Library. The town library was given up, or more properly merged, with the Memorial Library. Albert L. Davis was for a long time the librarian of the old library. New books had been bought from time to time as means admitted, and the townspeople derived much pleasure and, we trust, profit also by reason of this library, which for more than forty years was the literary headquarters of the townspeople.

Mention has been made several times of Stanyans Hall. As this hall played quite a part in the lives of the village people, for at least two generations, and is now gone, it deserves a description. The main building was the old Academy building erected in 1848 by William Gove and others. This edifice was some 35 by 50 feet on the ground, of one story, but quite high-posted. A walk led from the front, or main entrance,

to the street at a point about opposite the cemetery gate. Jonathan Stanyan bought the old Academy property about 1873. He at once proceeded to convert it into a public hall, a purpose to which it was well adapted. Mr. Stanyan was a first-class carpenter. The planning and finishing of this hall was almost a hobby with him, and on its interior he lavished his utmost skill.

At the northerly end of the hall he built a stage. There was a high ornate proscenium arch. This arch was painted to outdo any rainbow, and lettered around the top "Stanyan's Music Hall," in characters of fearful and wonderful design. A small parlor was built outside and back of the hall at the upper end. At the south end of the main building Mr. Stanyan added a large ell which contained a sizable dining room and kitchen. Large folding doors opening wide, if needed, separated the hall from the dining room. Over these doors was a tiny balcony reached by a flight of narrow winding stairs. The hall floor, of the best hard wood, was scraped, polished and waxed to perfection. In these days when everybody dances, and some do but little else, that type of floor would be fully appreciated in any community pretending to be up to date.

As long as Mr. Stanyan lived he maintained the hall in the pink of condition. It was used by the Re-

form Club for their meetings, by traveling shows of various kinds, home talent theatricals, by the lodge of Good Templars, for public balls and public gatherings as occasion required. After Mr. Stanyan's death the interest in the hall declined. It was last occupied as a tenement, and finally burned.

The years, whose events we are now attempting to depict, saw the arrival in town of a race destined to become very numerous, the well known but by no means highly respected "decemlineator," or so-called Colorado Potato Bug. Without dwelling on this rather distasteful theme, it is proper to record the fact these beetles first appeared around the village in 1877. The townspeople were warned in advance of their approach. Their arrival was awaited with a degree of interest and curiosity, but this feeling soon changed to disgust on better acquaintance. The bugs have apparently come to stay, for they still abide with us, as every farmer and gardener can testify, sometimes to their sorrow.

Ezra C. Knight was born in Landaff and came to Wentworth about 1876. He, in company with his son-in-law, Isaac N. Crosby, began the manufacture of bobbins. The firm of Knight and Crosby did a substantial business in the village for some thirty years, when at its peak, the firm employed some ten hands and turned out about 2,000,000 bobbins a year. The

waste wood from this bobbin mill furnished a cheap and very good fuel for many households as long as the mill ran.

Isaac Crosby, with his family, lived in town for some years after the bobbin mill had ceased to run. He served on the Board of Education several years, was representative in 1901.

Mr. Knight was quite prominent in political as well as in business circles during the years he lived in town, and representative in 1895.

The census of 1880 showed a population in town of 945, only a small decline from 1870, but, unfortunately, the worst was yet to come. The years from 1880 to 1890 were in a material sense uneventful in our town. Such changes as were made were not, as a rule, in the line of expansion. Brown's Mill became, as the years went by, less and less active. The Colburns, with Joseph A. Colburn at the head of the firm, did quite an extensive business in lumber and grain at Colburn's Mills, and B. W. Brown was in Rowentown, doing a lumber business there. The farms did not increase in either number or value during this period, and horses supplanted oxen to a great extent on the farms and in the woods.

The greatest change that came to the townspeople in the decade of which we are now speaking was in the manner of conducting the public schools. The district



system was abolished in 1886. The Prudential Committee of the old or district system now became a statesman out of a job. All school districts in town were now consolidated, a Board of Education acting for the entire town being placed in charge of school affairs.

Text books were improved, made more uniform and furnished free to all pupils for school use by the town. Previous to this time all text books were private property and, when not borrowed, as was sometimes the case, belonged to the scholars, or perhaps more properly in their respective families. In some cases the old text books had come down from other generations, having done their duty for a long time and for successive numbers of the same family. The use of slates in school was universal, note paper was scarce and but little used, and the blackboards less a feature fifty years ago than now.

The pupils of fifty years ago were, on the whole, better penmen and admittedly better spellers than our eighth-grade scholars of the present day. The conclusion is, and must be, that pupils are not as well drilled in these two rather important branches of study as formerly.

Another great change in the manner of conducting the town business came a little later, but may as well be mentioned here. This was no less than the abolition

of all highway districts. A road agent, or agents, were now elected to care for the highways. The highway tax was made payable in money as other taxes were paid. There was no more of the annual turn-out in June of each year to work on the roads. This also tended to take away from the individual personal responsibility and from the communities a large part of their capacity for local self-government. The process of divesting first the people of the various school and highway districts in towns of their power to control such matters locally is being extended to towns as a whole. This tendency has increased steadily, and is in full force at the present time.

The state officials, including the various boards and commissions, now discharge many and in some cases most of the duties which our citizens formerly felt competent to do for themselves, a change not by any means for the better in some respects. This movement appears further to be directly counter to the principle on which our government is founded, namely that a free people are entitled to be self-governing, with, of course, due regard for the rights of others.

It would be a fitting close to this chapter to allude very briefly to the men who were most in office during the years 1870 to 1900. They were in practically every case representative citizens and by virtue of their office at any rate influential in public affairs. Space

does not admit the mention of all who filled the various offices from year to year. We will, however, speak of some who were among those prominent during this period.

Mention will first be made of Lorenzo W. Currier. Mr. Currier during his lifetime saw more service on the Board of Selectmen than any other citizen of the town has ever had, being on the Board thirteen years in all and ten years as chairman. He was representative in 1879, town treasurer several years and moderator for around twenty years continuously. His brother, Capt. Samuel G. Currier, held many town offices, was representative in 1875-76 and again in 1889.

Franklin Eaton served as first selectman and town treasurer in 1874-76, as well as treasurer of Grafton County in 1876-78.

Amos M. Cogswell, station agent from 1870 to 1885, served as first selectman in 1880-81 and several years as superintendent of schools.

The veteran William H. Moore, previously mentioned, upheld the family tradition by serving as chairman of the Board 1882-85.

John L. Downing, Noah B. Foster and John B. Foster, from the south part of the town, all saw much service on the Board and in minor town offices. Samuel B. Burnham, also from the south part, was frequently a selectman and representative in 1873-74.

William H. Davis was town clerk all the time and representative in 1885. John A. Davis was town treasurer some thirty years in all, and representative in 1883. Charles Turner, after having previously served as selectman, was made chairman of the Board in 1890. Either Hiram D. Morey or J. D. Osgood was a deputy sheriff much of the time.

The census of 1890 showed the population to be 698, a loss of 247, the largest decline of any ten-year period in the history of the town. It is probable that the closing out of the large business formerly done at and around Brown's Mills accounted for a substantial part of this large loss in population during the years 1880 to 1890. It is also true that hill farms everywhere were being abandoned. The number of acres of woodland are increasing, while the acreage of cleared land tends to grow smaller and beautifully less as the years go slowly by.

The wild deer, after having been extinct for more than a generation, were now protected except for a short open season in the late fall. As a result, about 1890, they began to appear in the wilder portions of the town, to the great delight of the boys.



## CHAPTER VII — 1890–1930

LOSS OF THE TOWN RECORDS — THE CREAMERY  
— THE TOWN HALL — THE WORLD WAR —  
GREAT FIRE OF 1921 — THE CLOSING WORD

### THE FINAL FORTY YEARS, 1890–1930

This very modest history has been brought so far and to the year of grace 1890 without the help, aid and assistance of any town clerk's records because of the simple but sufficient reason that no such records exist.

Information has been gathered from Dr. Hoyt's invaluable manuscript, the selectmen's account books 1779 to 1858, files of New Hampshire registers, the records of the secretary of state, adjutant general and state treasurer, journals of the legislature, 1776 to 1927 gazetteers, histories of all kinds, and other sources too numerous to mention.

From now on, the way is in some respects clear and plain, there being town records and also tax lists in existence from the year 1890 until the present time.

The melancholy story of how the old records came to be destroyed will now be related.

In February, 1890, a very disastrous fire broke out

in the night in the store building of Eaton and Davis. The fire originated, it is thought, in a room used as a barber shop in the second story. This fire destroyed the old hotel and all that went with it, the store building of Eaton and Davis, with their stock of general merchandise, and the two-story building adjoining, owned and occupied by the jeweller, Charles E. Mason.

The town sustained in this fire a heavy material loss, but the verdict of the future will probably be that the loss of the town books and records, which were kept by the town clerk in a small office room over the store, was the greatest real disaster that befell the town at this time. The deplorable loss of the town clerk's records, as well as many other valuable town books and papers in this fire of February, 1890, is a loss that can never be replaced.

The present town clerk's record book begins with the business of the annual town meeting held on Tuesday, March 11, 1890, recorded in the plain round hand of William H. Davis, then town clerk.

The first thing recorded in the book is a petition of Francis A. Randall for the laying out of a road on Ellsworth Hill, over the land of Nancy M. and Henry B. Ellsworth and land of Lyman Ellsworth. It appears that the road was in time laid out as a lane, subject to gates and bars.

At the next town meeting, held on March 10, 1891, the town voted to discontinue the road leading from the house of Samuel J. Pease through land of Rufus Blodgett to the Moses Nichols place, also the road from the Henry Ellsworth place to the Kingsbury place, so called, as far as laid out. These votes are mentioned here to show the reader the fate that has overtaken many of our back roads.

In 1891 an effort was made to improve business conditions, especially among the farmers, by the establishment of a coöperative creamery.

The Wentworth Creamery Association was organized December 5, 1891, with a paid-in capital of \$3,000. The stock was all subscribed for and held by the people of Wentworth and a few residents of Warren.

Elias M. Blodgett, W. E. Piper, James B. Brown and Harry M. Turner were elected the first Board of Directors. The town voted in 1892 to exempt for a period of three years the property of the Creamery Association from taxation.

This creamery was located on the old brook road in the deep valley directly back of the Doctor Hoyt house. The building was of good size and well equipped; for about twenty-five years the Association did a successful business and its products were of the best quality and always in good demand. The output of

the creamery was mostly butter, but at times cream was also sold. The creamery was a help to the farmers and furnished them a market for milk for a long time. With the gradual decline of farms, however, and also the fact that many farmers began later to ship their milk by train direct to Boston, the amount of milk handled at the creamery declined to a point where operation was impracticable. About 1920 the creamery was closed, such of the equipment as had any value was sold and the building allowed to fall into ruin. A few of the farmers still continue to dispose of their surplus milk to the creamery at West Rumney, the Boston market not having in all cases proved to be a reliable one.

In 1893 there was incorporated in town a new religious society under the name of the Free Methodist Society, Inc. J. A. Wright, Cicero A. Clifford, James H. Lund, Charles H. Hall and Charles F. Keniston were the charter members. The Society did not progress apparently, and has been dormant for at least twenty-five years.

At about this period another innovation came into the lives of the townspeople. The telephone is less spectacular than was the telegraph, but destined to be of much more practical use.

On May 24, 1881, there was organized at Plymouth the Plymouth and Campton Telephone Exchange



Co., with a paid-up capital of \$2,790. The company was at first little more than an experiment. In six years they were only able to show a list of fifty-two subscribers and a gross income of \$1,498.86 for the year ending June 1, 1887. But in spite of their poverty they soon began to seek for new worlds to conquer. On March 29, 1897, this company was granted by the selectmen of Wentworth the right to set poles and run wires within the highway limits of the town. This was the modest beginning of the present telephone system.

In 1902 the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. was chartered to run through the town along the highways, but is used only as a through line, not competing for the local business.

The present Telephone Company is a consolidation of the Plymouth and Campton with other small companies, and known as the White Mountain Telephone and Telegraph Co., with headquarters at Plymouth, the central office for the upper part of the Baker's River valley being at Warren.

About 1895 the last of the war debt was paid and the townspeople began to feel they could begin to afford a few luxuries for themselves. They had already bought a road machine, and active agitation in regard to the building of a town hall was begun.

The warrant for the town meeting held March 8, 1898, contained the following article:

"Art. 3. To see if the town will vote to build a Town House, raise money for that purpose and choose a committee to locate and build the same."

Under this article the town voted to build a town house, and raised \$1,500 for the purpose. At the same meeting, Elias M. Blodgett, John D. Marston and John W. Lyon were elected a building committee.

The committee proceeded to arrange for the building. After some consideration they decided to locate the hall on the easterly side of the highway directly in front of what was known as the Nutting place, formerly the home of the pioneer, John Aiken.

Mrs. Betsey, wife of Pethuel Downing, gave the town a sum of money sufficient to pay for the land and something more.

The building is about 40 x 60, two stories high and well built. A hall on the first floor is used for town meetings or other gatherings as needed; a small stage extends across the easterly end of the hall, so that dramatic or other entertainments can be given in town.

Arthur L. Kimball was appointed janitor about as soon as the hall was ready for use, and has continued to hold the office acceptably until the present time (1929).

The building was built in 1899; the town voted in that year to grade the grounds around the hall and not to finish the upper story.

In 1901 the town voted to raise \$400 to finish the upper story and \$250 to furnish the same. They further voted to give the selectmen the right to lease the upper hall to societies. This action was no doubt taken in the interest of the Grange, as the hall with anterooms was shortly rented by the Grangers, who have occupied it ever since. There was also a vote taken in 1902 to raise \$250 to build the present horse sheds at the town hall. The hall is a well-built and comfortable building, well suited for the purpose for which it was intended, and in size and equipment ample to meet the needs of the townspeople.

By the census of 1900, the town's population is given as 617, a loss of 81 during the decade. This number, 617, is but 129 more than the figures for 1800, which were 488, the net gain in one hundred years being a fraction over one individual a year, which is hardly impressive.

Town Clerk William H. Davis died in office in 1903. His record book is neat, legible and complete, and would well serve as a model of its kind.

Telephones were becoming numerous, in 1904. Hiram M. Bowen was granted the right to set poles on the Atwell Hill Road; also about this time the Citizen's Telephone Co. was organized by Fred C. Gleason of Warren and others to do business throughout the Baker's River valley. These various interests were



MAIN STREET, LOOKING WEST BEFORE THE FIRE



TOWN HALL





later consolidated and merged with the old or White Mountain Telephone and Telegraph Co.

The coming of the automobile is no more a part of the history of our town than of every town wherever the name and fame of Henry Ford are mentioned, or the Standard Oil Co. have ever disposed of any of its popular products. But since the coming of motor-driven vehicles has worked very profound changes in the business, industrial and social life of the nation, the record would be incomplete unless mention of them was made. The production of a horseless carriage has been the dream of inventors for more than two hundred years. Many models were produced and a few of them actually ran. It remained, however, for the French nation to perfect and produce the first practical automobile as it exists today, using the gasoline engine. Our countrymen were quick to appreciate and adopt the work of the French inventors.

By the coming of the year of 1900, automobiles had gained a foothold in the United States. It is not possible now to say just what day the first one made an appearance in Wentworth. It is not unlikely to have been in the year 1899 when the first auto chugged over the roads of our town, scaring horses and terrifying all kinds of live stock; it was regarded by many of the beholders as a sort of a Juggernaut.

It was freely predicted that while autos might be

used some in and around the cities, they would never be a success on the country roads.

The automobile has, however, almost driven the horse off the roads of the United States. The motor trucks and bus lines are now taking from the railroads a large part of the passenger and no small portion of the freight business of the nation, the iron horse having gone in many cases the way of old Dobbin. Tractors are building roads in summer and ploughing out snowdrifts in the winter, the main roads now being kept open for automobile traffic the year round.

It is hardly too much to say that every family now has an automobile and, as was formerly said of dogs, the poorer families have two.

There are now (1929) 108,000 cars licensed in the state, a number ample, no doubt, to take the whole population of the state joy riding at one grand trip. Highways are being built and rebuilt everywhere. The cost of these improved highways is staggering. Many lines of business are suffering because of the diversion of the large sums used to buy and maintain automobiles and build roads for them to run on. The foregoing is as true of Wentworth as of other towns in the state, but not more so.

Another development in means of travel impends. Airplanes are now seen as often as automobiles were thirty years ago. Their use is bound to increase. A

public landing field will become a necessity in every town.

It is quite possible the diversion of much passenger traffic and light transportation to the air routes will go far to relieve the congestion on our highways.

The wise old crack "That there is more room up in the air than anywhere else" is in a way to get a hard jolt in years to come, it being safe to predict that the use of the airship as a means of transportation is destined greatly to increase in the near future, with the end not yet in sight.

The town in 1910 was credited with a population of 595 and almost held its own for the ten years, 1900 to 1910.

One of the events of public importance deserving mention in the history of our town was the establishment during the year 1910 of Camp Pemigewasset, a summer camp for boys, at Baker's Pond.

The association was duly incorporated on September 10, 1910. The articles of incorporation stated the "purpose was to maintain a boys' summer camp for the promotion of education, physical culture and social recreation." Edwin Fauver of Swarthmore, Pa., Edgar Fauver of Teachers College in New York, and Dudley B. Reed of Rochester, N. Y., were among the founders of the corporation and may perhaps be considered the promoters of the enterprise.



The proprietors of the camp have acquired sufficient land on the shores of the lower Baker's Pond to carry out their designs. They have from time to time added to their original holdings of real estate in the vicinity until, at the present time, they own or control the larger part of the shore of the pond.

The camp proper is located on the lakeside furthest from the highway. The grounds around the camp are well kept and laid out with tennis courts and ball grounds. The lake furnishes ample chance for water sports of all kinds, boating, canoeing, swimming and bathing. Most of the modest camp buildings are located in the grove that skirts the southerly shore of the pond.

The camp has been apparently a success in all respects from its inception and appears to be a prosperous-going concern. The camp boys come occasionally to the village and are a familiar and welcome sight in the region roundabout.

Singers and musicians from among the camp people have frequently taken part in church services and also entertainments at the village.

The establishment of this camp has been a very substantial addition to the material and social resources of the community.

One thing will probably not fail to escape the attention of one observant of town affairs, namely, that

a new generation of men and women are now in official charge of the public business.

The veteran postmaster, James B. Brown, was succeeded in that office by Mrs. Virginia R. Eaton. On the Board of Selectmen about this period we find, among others, Harry A. Whitcher, Walter S. Libbey, Charles T. Gove and Ben B. Foster. Hiram Bowen, an active, stirring man, was prominent at this era in political and business circles. W. D. Stinson was in business at Colburn's Mills. It must be admitted, however, that production in town was in a decline which, we regret very much to have to admit, has continued.

From a historical standpoint perhaps the part taken by the townspeople in the World War, 1914 to 1918, is the outstanding event of the decade.

At the outbreak of the war in July, 1914, a feeling of gratitude that our own country was not involved, prevailed. It was at first believed the war would not be a prolonged conflict. This belief proved to be a mistaken one. The war dragged on its bloody, gloomy and indecisive course during the years 1914, 1915 and 1916.

The people of New Hampshire at least, and probably of the country as a whole, grew to scorn neutrality and freely admitted and even proclaimed their sympathy for the Allies. During 1916 it became increasingly evident that the United States would be

involved in the conflict, the only question being when would the hour come.

This question was answered on the sixth day of April, 1917, when President Wilson, supported strongly by Congress, proclaimed the United States to be at war with Germany and her associates.

There was no display of the Jingo spirit. But it is not too much to say the people were as a whole united and resolved to see the war through to a finish, come what might.

Grim preparations for the war were rapidly made. Almost the first of these was the so-called Selective Service Act which in effect mobilized the entire man power of the nation for military purposes, and from the hour of the adoption of this Act by the United States, the German cause was lost.

\* The first registration under this Act was on June 5, 1917. This covered the ages 21 to 31.

The second registration, a year later, included those who had become 21 since the first registration.

The third and last registration on September 12, 1918, extended the age limits downward to 18 and upward to 45 years.

The contribution made by our town to the military forces of the United States during the war can be stated as follows:

\*Hobart Pillsbury.

Fay Boardman was serving in the regular army, having enlisted in 1914, and served until his discharge in 1920.

Before the Selective Service Act was in effect, there were from town the following enlistments:

Elwin O. Clough, Navy, enlisted May 7, 1917.  
Hubbard E. Howard, National Guard, enlisted April 3, 1917.  
Philbrook X. Wright, National Guard, enlisted April 14, 1917.  
Ray A. Wright, National Guard, enlisted April 14, 1917.

After the Selective Service Act was in effect, the following men entered the service by induction or enlistment:

Ray O. Clough, entered service, Dec. 20, 1917.  
Lorenzo G. Currier, entered service, Oct. 15, 1918.  
Charles G. Estes, entered service, March 9, 1918.  
Arthur H. Fellows, entered service, Sept. 3, 1918.  
Carl J. Fellows, entered service, April 26, 1918.  
Leonard L. Fellows, entered service, July 8, 1917.  
Lester K. Gove, entered service, July 24, 1918.  
Lewis W. Gove, entered service, Sept. 21, 1917.  
Martin L. Gove, entered service, Oct. 2, 1917.  
J. Edward Mackey, entered service, Aug. 2, 1917.  
Elias R. McGinnis, entered service, July 24, 1918.  
Joseph L. McGinnis, entered service, Oct. 21, 1918.  
William A. Morrison, entered service, Dec. 17, 1917.  
Henry F. Ramsdell, entered service, June 15, 1918.  
Frank E. Robinson, entered service, Oct. 21, 1918.  
Fred E. Russell, entered service, May 20, 1918.  
Raymond C. Smith, entered service, June 30, 1918.  
Charles A. Wright, entered service, Oct. 21, 1918.

In all, twenty-three men.



In the roster of soldiers will be found the extended official record and serial number belonging to each of the above men, showing their service in detail. It is with a feeling of pride that we can record that all the above were honorably discharged. Desertions from the service were few as a whole; none are recorded to discredit the records of the men from Wentworth.

An examination of the foregoing list discloses that Hubbard E. Howard was the first man from town to enter the ranks after war was declared. He was nearly two years in the army and saw plenty of service.

The next men to enlist were the brothers Philbrook X. and Ray A. Wright, who entered the army April 14, 1917. Both were overseas.

Philbrook Wright while serving in Company G, 103rd Infantry, was wounded severely on September 22, 1918. He was able in time to get home, but never recovered from the effects of his wounds and died the following summer, and is buried in Warren.

Philbrook Wright was Wentworth's only casualty during the war.

The people of the town during the war period supported the Government loyally in its war measures. They ate the war bread, accepted rations of many articles, such as sugar and wheat, bought liberty bonds, and war savings stamps, and in all ways performed cheerfully and willingly their share.

There were no slackers in the town, and neither was there flourish of trumpets. The sentiment of the people was that all they held most dear was in great peril. That if Germany won, nothing they now possessed would be of any value and that nothing else mattered now except to insure the defeat of the Central Powers.

All ages, sexes and conditions worked to this end quietly, but with a stern and fixed resolution that prevailed in the end, as history will for all time relate.

An incident of this period was the removal from town of the Lyon family.

John W. Lyon succeeded to the tin shop business formerly conducted by Alfred Page. The family was highly regarded and quite prominent while in town. Mr. Lyon was selectman several years, serving as chairman of the Board in 1899 and 1900.

The daughter, Virginia R. Eaton, served a term as postmaster, being succeeded in 1912 by Joseph A. McLeod, who held the office until 1924. It was a matter of genuine regret to have the Lyon family leave the town to settle in Louisiana.

The Rev. Frank C. Bradeen, a man of much personal charm as well as ability, was a resident of the town nearly ten years. He was popular and active in church as well as public affairs during his pastorate. He was representative in 1917, being elected almost

without opposition, and served with credit to the town.

In the war summer of 1918, there was through the country a devastating outbreak of the so-called Spanish Influenza, generally called, for short, the "Flu."

This disease raged especially in the army camps, and cost the lives of many of our soldiers in training. The very young and people over fifty were as a rule not affected by the disease. The victims were largely men and women in the early prime of life, and the most robust stood apparently the poorest chance of recovery if attacked.

Vernon L. McIntire, a fireman on the railroad, who lived with his family in the place formerly for many years the home of the venerable Mark Aiken, died on October 5.

Allan F. Downing, the youngest son of Cyrus Downing, a highly respected and successful business man in the village, died on October 4. He had been in trade for some time in the old James B. Brown store building. Allan Downing was at the time he died town treasurer and a useful, all-round citizen. Both these deaths were greatly regretted in the community.

The population in 1920 was 507, and the number of schools in town were five, or half as many as formerly.

An important event in the town's history during the World War period, was the presentation to the townspeople of the very useful and substantial Webster Memorial Library.

The ceremonies attending the formal presentation and dedication of this edifice are set forth in detail in another chapter.

About all that now remains to record in this narrative is an account of the disastrous fire of September 5, 1921.

Wentworth has suffered greatly from time to time from the effects of flood and fire. The greatest single disaster was probably the flood of 1856.

The largest loss by any one fire up to this time, let us hope for all time, was caused by the fire in the village that broke out Monday evening September 5, 1921. The night was cloudy and dark with little wind.

A dance at the town hall was in progress during the evening. About 10:30 P. M. it was noticed by some who had been attending the dance but were then outside the hall, that the store building occupied by H. F. Pero was on fire, in and around the basement. This was the building formerly owned for a long time by James B. Brown, now the property of John P. Currier.

What followed is well described by the Editor of the *Plymouth Record* in his paper of that week.



As his article was written shortly after the fire and while its ruins were still smoking, it is more vivid and realistic than one written years after can be made to seem.

Hence it is given below, verbatim and in full, by courteous permission of the Editor.

### DISASTROUS FIRE

About 10:40, Monday night, fire broke out in the basement of H. F. Pero's store, which spread along that side of the street, and, aided by a slight breeze drawing up the valley, jumped across the street. Before it was conquered it destroyed eight buildings and badly damaged another. The town has no water system or fire-fighting apparatus, so help was summoned from Warren, Plymouth and Fairlee. The motor engine from Warren arrived first and, pumping from the river, quickly had a stream on the fire.

The fire had reached the property of H. M. Bowen, and the Warren boys held it there until the Plymouth engine arrived with two streams, and the three streams did the trick, though the ell of Mr. Bowen's house was gutted and one side of the main house badly damaged before the flames were stopped. Meantime the chemical apparatus from Fairlee had arrived and taken their station on the knoll near Major

Rhoades's house, where the fire, sweeping through the trees, had burned the small barn and set fire to the roof of the unoccupied dwelling. They stopped its traveling in that direction, and the situation was under control. The buildings burned included the store building owned by John Currier and occupied by H. F. Pero, who lived in rooms above the store. Nothing was saved here, and in the stable E. J. Bailey lost a valuable driving horse, carriage, sleigh and harness. The barn belonging to J. A. Davis, and full of hay, was totally destroyed, but a horse stabled in it was saved. Charles Sprague's house and the house owned by George Webster and occupied by Superintendent of Schools, Carl T. Rhoades, were burned, though the occupants saved nearly all their personal effects. Mr. Rhoades lost eight tons of coal and several cords of wood and a new fur coat. The fireproof construction of the beautiful library building prevented further spread here. On the other side of the street, the house and store, with a long connecting shed, all belonging to J. A. Davis, were utterly destroyed with all their contents, except the outgoing parcel post matter, which was made up in bags. The dwelling house was occupied by Mr. Davis and his family, and his son-in-law, Joe McLeod, lived over the store. Mr. Davis is 89 years old, blind and feeble, and his wife is also aged and none too strong. Mr. McLeod's son Earl is

helpless, so that all efforts of these families and their friends were devoted to securing the safety of the feeble and helpless ones, and property was not to be considered. The building next the store, owned by Mrs. Ray Bailey of Woodsville, in which Charles Estey, Mrs. Shepard and Mrs. Mooney, the telegraph operator, had rooms, went up in flames completely, but the occupants were able to save their belongings. At the other side of the Davis property, the house belonging to Mr. Lyons and occupied by John Kenney caught fire twice, but was saved. On the knoll, Major Rhoades's small barn burned, but not the house. One thing Wentworth folks all agree upon and that is unstinted praise for the fire fighters who came to their aid and doubtless saved a number of other buildings.

#### NOTES

The McLaughlin house; Mrs. Burnham and Mrs. Briggs cheered the firemen with plenty of doughnuts and coffee during the night.

The J. A. Davis and McLeod families are at Albert Davis's.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowen and Mrs. Taplin are at F. H. Brigg's.

Superintendent Rhoades and family are at Mrs. Sturtevant's.

Mrs. Mary Thomas, Mr. Sprague's housekeeper, has gone to Lisbon and Mr. Sprague is at the hotel.

No one knew anything about the gallant rescues recorded in one daily paper.

The post office is in the Lyons building.

The safe in the Davis store saved its contents, among which were the post office accounts, money and stamps.

The blackened smoking embers, the burned shade trees and the burned knoll made a sad sight of the heart of Wentworth village when the *Record* man visited it Wednesday afternoon. The people seemed to him to be still a little dazed by the calamity, and he could learn of no plans for rebuilding being made then; but looking at the situation from the outside, it might be worse. Aside from the shade trees and the wooded knoll, nothing has been destroyed but what the hand of man built and can rebuild. The valley is just as beautiful and the location as fair as ever. The possibilities as a trading center still exist and the *Record* man confidently expects before long to hear of plans and activities looking to rebuilding a better and, if that is possible, a fairer heart in Wentworth Village.

The fire gave one more opportunity to demonstrate the value of the light motor fire truck with pump. They are almost invaluable to any village where a water hole is or can be available and, where one is owned, any farmer for miles around can have fire



protection by damming a nearby brook. They travel fast and do their work well.

Fifty thousand dollars seemed, to those interviewed, a conservative estimate of the loss, and the reporter did not learn of anyone who did not have some insurance.

The fire made a scene of ruin in the heart of the village.

On the spot where the John A. Davis store was located, an oblong, two-story building with a flat roof was built as soon as practicable after the fire.

This building has ever since been used as a store by the John A. Davis Co., and also for post office purposes.

Across the street and about on the site of John P. Currier's store building has been built a substantial garage and service station, owned and operated by C. H. Evans. This garage is of stucco construction and well kept. A new bungalow for the use of the Evans family has been built near the garage on the same side of the street.

The John A. Davis residence and the old picturesque Deacon Dean house have never been rebuilt. The H. M. Bowen house was thoroughly repaired after the fire, and is now the home of Mr. Bowen's daughter, Mrs. Taplin.

This fire dealt a staggering blow to the village, from which it has not yet recovered, except in part.

The years up to 1927 were not eventful. In 1924 the town voted to discontinue a large portion of the old road leading from Sanders Hill to Ellsworth Hill. At the same meeting the town voted to instruct the selectmen to inspect the dam at Brown's Mills. We are not advised what the voters expected, or perhaps feared, the selectmen would find there at the time of this inspection.

The use of oil or tarvia, now all but universal on graveled roads, began in Wentworth in 1925, as that year we find the first mention of an appropriation for that purpose.

After another fire in the village which burned two more sets of buildings, they being the ones formerly owned by the late Frank Webster, a special town meeting was held on October 6, 1925, to consider the matter of providing fire equipment for the town.

As a result of these efforts the town voted, in 1926, \$2,500 for this purpose. The money was expended for a good-sized chemical engine with accessories, which has so far proved quite satisfactory.

In 1927 the town made a small appropriation for the celebration of Old Home Day. The ceremony was on August 17. There was music and speaking upon the Common, with ball games and sports on the

intervale back of the library and near the old swimming hole.

In order to show the scale that highway expenses have now attained would simply cite the appropriation in 1928 of the sum of \$2,800 for snow removal equipment.

Fifty years earlier the town, with a far larger population and real valuation, spent a total of \$410.70 for highway purposes; this was, of course, in addition to the regular highway tax, which was not paid in money but in labor, by the owners of property, as was then the custom.

The devastating flood of November, 1927, is memorable and historic, but is fully described in another chapter.

During recent years Benjamin B. Foster, Charles H. Brown, C. Earl Gove and Eugene C. Downing have seen much service on the Board of Selectmen, the mantle having passed from our older leaders to a younger generation. The representative at the last session of the legislature was Frank H. Colby, one of the Colby family who have been residents of Wentworth for a hundred years and more.

The work of building state roads in town still goes on. The present year (1930) will, it is expected, see the road to Orford completed, at least all of it that lies in our town.

This year, too, marks the passing of the old covered bridge across Baker's River at the Rolfe place. This bridge, a landmark for 65 years, has outlived all similar bridges in the region, and is staunch, yet a credit to its builders.

A new cement arch bridge is now being built which, when finished, will replace the old wooden lattice so-called Stevens bridge.

As the first list of town officers was given in full, it would be no more than fair to give the last, to convey to all interested an idea of the latest official staff in charge of the public affairs of the town.

The list is for the year ending March 11, 1930, and given in full for future reference. It furnishes a starting point for the next historian of our town.

#### TOWN OFFICERS, 1929

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| C. Earl Gove        | Selectman for one year    |
| C. H. Pease         | Selectman for two years   |
| C. H. Brown         | Selectman for three years |
| Clarence H. Pease   | Town clerk                |
| Ardella F. Blodgett | Town treasurer            |
| Grover C. Breck     | Collector of taxes        |
| Harold Matava       | Road agent                |
| James P. Osborne    | Road agent                |
| Grover C. Breck     | Constable                 |
| William Morrison    | Police officer            |
| William Morrison    | Health Officer            |
| David L. Goodwin    | Town trustee, one year    |
| A. R. Eames         | Town trustee, two years   |
| E. C. Downing       | Town trustee, three years |



|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Ben B. Foster      | Auditor |
| Raymond E. Downing | Auditor |
| John E. Currier    | Auditor |

## ELECTION OFFICERS

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Harry M. Turner    | Moderator    |
| Walter S. Libbey   | Supervisor   |
| Lester C. Hutchins | Supervisor   |
| Fred W. Blodgett   | Supervisor   |
| Elias McGinnis     | Ballot clerk |
| Frank A. Downing   | Ballot clerk |
| John E. Currier    | Ballot clerk |
| Leslie Belyea      | Ballot clerk |

Hard as it may be to begin a work of this kind, it is perhaps even harder to find a place where we can lay down the pen.

Much still remains unsaid. No one can realize more fully than does the writer the imperfections in the account of which this is the closing word.

Such as it is, it may, let us humbly hope, help to preserve and perpetuate a part of the traditions, names and achievements of the people who have, during the past hundred and sixty years, made the history of the town of Wentworth what it is.

# PART SECOND—TOPICS

## CHAPTER I

### ROADS OF ALL KINDS — SURVEYORS WARRANT OF 1804 — BUILDING OF THE BOSTON, CONCORD AND MONTREAL RAILROAD

#### ROADS OF ALL KINDS

The study of the progress of the means for transportation is of great interest. Perhaps the facilities for travel or movement of commodities for purposes of trade and commerce is a fair test by which to gauge the progress of any region or even any nation. Without roads, there can be no real degree of civilization.

The first traveled way through our town was the ancient Indian trail leading from the valley of the Merrimack River towards the upper portion of the valley of the Connecticut River, thence to what is now Canada. This trail followed rather closely along the Baker's River as far as Wentworth Village. Here the trail left the river and followed up the Pond Brook, thence going probably via Lake Tarleton through Piermont to the valley of the Connecticut and beyond.

In 1754 the Governor sent Major Tolford with Captain Page of Dunbarton to explore the "Cowass Country" and locate and mark a road leading to it. John Stark, later famous as a general in the Revolution, was a guide for this expedition. This party spotted the trees along the route, as outlined above, of the ancient Indian trail.

This was the "marked way" referred to by Capt. Peter Powers, who followed it with his company in his expedition later in the same year.

After the grant of the township to the proprietors in 1766, one of their first acts was to arrange for a road in the town.

Early in 1768 it was voted by the proprietors that Colonel Greeley, Phillips White, Esq., Jacob Hook, Esq., Samuel Page, Ensign Jacob Gale, Lieut. Joseph Page and Mr. Enoch Page be constituted a committee to "Get a road cleared out through said township."

That the committee did so is shown by a vote in 1769, "To pay those who had worked on the road through the township, five shillings per day for every day they had worked."

The road "cleared out" by this committee was the first road through town, and called the "Old Cross Road" by the settlers, so named because it crossed the town completely. It was for some forty years the

main road leading from Rumney north to Haverhill and beyond.

The "clearing out" process spoken of here does not mean that a road was graded or bridges built. The road at first was a mere trail; bushes and trees were cut out and perhaps a few mud holes mended with poles or brush. It was no doubt passable for an ox team or a saddle horse. Most of the people who used this road were, however, on foot, and the first roads are repeatedly spoken of in the early records as paths, and that is, in the main, what they really were.

There was established at first by the proprietors, aided by such assistance as the early settlers were able to render, which was not likely to have been very much, a highway system which consisted of three roads, or, perhaps to speak more properly, trails, in the central portion of the town.

The first and most important was the "Old Cross Road" just mentioned. This thoroughfare followed closely the route of the "marked way" which in its turn followed the Indians' route.

This road began at the Rumney line near the old Smart place, thence to Smart's old mill yard; from there to the upper end of the Pillsbury intervale, then over the hill to Charles Gove's; from there to Baker's River below the falls. The river crossing was about back of the library. The route then went up the valley



of the Pond Brook nearly to Brown's Mills, then over Atwell Hill by where the schoolhouse now stands, to the Piermont line. Its location over Atwell Hill was nearly on the line of the present highway.

Rude camps were built in places along this route where the weary and footsore could rest and refresh themselves. One of these camps was located in the extreme southeasterly corner of Harry Turner's field. A plot of land in that location has been called locally "The Bark Camp Ground" for very many years. The tradition is that this camp was also used by the early surveying parties and was beyond a doubt built before a settler had arrived in town.

The second road began about at the site of the Hackett Saw and Gristmill on the Pond Brook, near the mill pond of the present day. It went then over the plains near Thomas Huckins' house and down over the intervale. It crossed Fred Libbey's land, the brook and Clarence Eaton's field, then it crossed Baker's River to the East Side. This was the route used by the early settlers in that locality to come to the gristmill, and was always called by them the "Old Mill Path."

After crossing the river, this road followed nearly the line of the present highway over Clifford Hill to the Warren line, this being the first route from Wentworth to Warren.

The third and last of the early roads was the one leading from the "Old Cross Road" to the south part of the town, thence to Dorchester, and was called the "Dorchester Road."

This road left the "Old Cross Road" in what is now Harry Turner's field; it crossed Baker's River, then through the Joshua Foster field, now owned by Mr. Bowl, over Hooper Hill and past the Ben B. Foster place, following closely and perhaps precisely the route of the present highway from Ben Foster's to the Cheever Post Office.

The original route and oldest road to Dorchester is, therefore, the road over Hooper Hill. The first settlers in the south part of the town were all, without exception, located along this Hooper Hill road.

The first bridge at the village was built about 1780, at the crossing below the falls. This was known for many years as "Aiken's Bridge." About the same time a road was opened leading from about the end of this bridge over the meadow and up the bank nearly in front of Mrs. Briggs' house; it then ran northerly on the easterly side of the hill, and not far from the river, until it came out in Clarence Eaton's field.

At the upper end of this field it joined the "Old Mill Path," previously described, and was used as a short cut. At this time there was not a single building in what is now the heart of the village.

The first bridge below the falls was no doubt a rude affair. It was washed away by a freshet in the fall of 1785; a part of Aiken's Mills also went down river at the same time.

At a special town meeting held October 31, 1785, it was voted to rebuild the bridge and pay three shillings a day to the workmen.

It was further "Voted to provide ten gallons of rum to raise said bridge."

The strong presumption is that there was a great plenty of outside help present at the raising of the aforesaid bridge.

This description shows about what had been done by the proprietors and early settlers for roads up to 1783, which was in effect to clear out only such trails or paths as were very necessary.

Previous to the year 1783 there was not a legally laid out road in town. From the organization of the town in 1779 to this time, there had been yearly appropriations, either in labor or in grain, at a specified price for repairing highways. It is obvious that in order to have the taxes raised and expended legally, there must be first a legal laying out of the highways on which it is to be used.

Some of the most important were "layed" out by the selectmen during the year 1783, and to show the off-hand and rather sketchy manner in which the

roads were surveyed and recorded by the selectmen of those days, we are copying a little from their records verbatim.

“Wentworth, October 1, 1783. This day we have layd out a publick road throu this town beginning at Rumney line below Thomas Todds, three rods in width, near about where the road now goes, about a westerly point threw said Todds land and Isaac Clifford’s over the brook and then north-westerly by spotted trees about one-half mile and then in the path now trod and following on the same till it comes to the top of the hill on the westerly side of Clay Brook, so called, and then by spotted trees about sixty rods to the path on the side of Whit’s Hill, so called, following the path and spotted trees along threw William Heath’s Land and Pages’ and Putney’s land till it comes to a sharp turn; thence northwesterly by spotted trees to Aikens land, so strait forward threw said land by the age of the rye till it comes to John Aiken’s house and then following the path along over the great bridge on Baker’s River and so on said path on the west side of the river threw Whit’s land till it comes to the old mill path and on said path between Whit’s land and Ephraim Page’s land and by the river to Pillsbury’s land and threw said land on the path and so on till it come to Warren line. The satisfaction that we allow is the advantage the road is to each person.

|        |                  |                                       |
|--------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| per us | JOHN AIKEN       | } <i>Selectmen<br/>of Wentworth.”</i> |
|        | EXPERIENCE CROSS |                                       |
|        | BENJ. WEEKS      |                                       |

The above brief recorded description of what was then the main road through the town does not mean much to the average reader of the present time.

This road began at Rumney line near the old Sam-



uel Smart place, later owned by Joseph Cross, and followed the route of the "Old Cross Road," elsewhere described, to Harry Turner's house, except that it kept the higher land through his pasture instead of going down on the meadow.

The little brook running through the old Brick Yard near the Turner house was called, in this layout, the "Clay Brook."

The road from here then ran directly over the hill to Charles Gove's, a portion of the way in the path of the Cross Road. From Gove's to Aiken's Bridge below the falls, it followed very closely the beaten path.

From the bridge, it went easterly up the steep bank about in front of Mrs. Briggs' house, then easterly of the hill back of the village to the intervalles above. Here it intersected the "Old Mill Path." From this point the road ran northerly on the intervalles until it came out on the present road near the old Marston or Hoyt farm, thence to the Warren line and over Beech Hill to Warren Village.

This was for a generation the main road through the town. The traces of this ancient highway can still be seen in many places along the route; in several cases, stone culverts were built and there were, without doubt, bridges across all the brooks.

Another very ancient road, having been laid out in 1783, started from about where Clarence Eaton now

lives, then up by the old Samuel Colby place to the Goodell place, so called, on Atwell Hill; from thence over the hill until it reached the "Old Cross Road." This was, beyond a doubt, the first road to the easterly part of this hill, and for some twenty-five years the only one.

Two other roads were laid out in 1783. The first of these was the road to Dorchester, which has been already described. Laying it out merely legalized what had already been done.

The other road was the ancient one over Ellsworth and Sanders Hill; this has been called at times the "Old County Road," and was abandoned in part many years ago. This road began on Atwell Hill, ran to Brown's Mills, then over Ellsworth Hill, by the old Davis place; from there over part of Sanders Hill and down to the Dorchester road near the Reuben Whitcher farm.

In 1785 the road from the Ben B. Foster place down the valley of the South Branch to the Rumney line was recorded, as well as the road on the East Side over Clifford Hill to Warren.

It does not appear that any compass was used up to this time, or until about 1795, in laying out these roads, and the descriptions are rather vague, as a rule.

In 1795 a road on about the line of the present

highway was laid out to Atwell Hill and was the first direct road from the village to that region.

In 1797 the road was built from the Rumney line directly north, by Capt. Uriah Colburn's to the Joshua Foster place. Here it intersected the road to Dorchester. This is the present main line and made a bridge across the South Branch necessary.

This route was extended from the Foster place to Gove's in the year 1810, and now it forms a part of the state road through the valley. It was a difficult piece of road to construct for those early days, involving as it did a long bridge across Baker's River and the heavy bank wall at the Bull's-eye, so called, below Charles Gove's. This old wall was, however, a credit to the builders. It stood for one hundred and seventeen years until it was so weakened by the flood of November, 1927, that it became shaky or unsafe, and during the summer of 1928 the State widened the road at this point, blasting away the solid ledge and using the stone to rubble the "Bull's-eye" side, making the road, as now rebuilt, wide, straight and solid at that point.

One of the latest pieces of main road to be built was the more or less famous Buffalo Road, so called. This road was demanded by the people of Rumney in order to make a through line on the east side of the river from Rumney north. The people of Wentworth



BAKER'S RIVER VALLEY, SHOWING OLD COVERED BRIDGE BUILT IN 1865





voted to resist to the end the construction of this piece of highway, claiming the route was a benefit only to Rumney and an unnecessary expense. Finally Rumney appealed to the commissioners who, after several hearings, ordered Wentworth to build their part of the road. Accordingly, the road was built in the years 1814 and 1815. Previous to this time the people of that neighborhood used the old cross road which comes out by Charles Gove's place. They were, apparently, satisfied to use that road, but the people of Rumney were insistent to have the other built, thus giving both towns a through line on both sides of the river. As has been stated, Rumney prevailed in the end, and the road was built as above related.

The piece of road in town which has from first to last been the cause of more heart-burning debate, discussion and litigation than any other, is the present road leading from the village to Orford via Baker's Ponds. This road has been variously known as the Brook Road, the Pond Brook Road and the Orford Road. For a part of the way it was a portion of the old original cross road through the township. A turnpike was once chartered over this route. The account of incorporation read as follows: By act of Legislature June 18, 1805, the Orford Turnpike was incorporated "To run from Orford Bridge on the Connecticut River through Orford and part of Wentworth to

Aiken's bridge on Baker's River." This turnpike, however, was never built. Another turnpike was chartered to run from Haverhill via Tarleton Pond over the height of land to Warren, thence to Wentworth Village. More or less money was expended on this line and then it was used for through travel for a time. The steep hills in Warren caused it to be abandoned in favor of roads with lighter grades, after having been in use as a main road for some thirty years.

It has already been related how the first attempt to build the Brook Road around the year 1800 resulted in failure and involved the town in a long lawsuit with Orford. For some years the only direct route to Orford was over Atwell Hill.

The Brook Road was finally built where it now is, and peace reigned for a season. During the flood of 1856, this road suffered great damage, the part near the village being nearly destroyed. At this time the new road running by Pease's store was laid out and built; this has been ever since the main road and is now a portion of our State Highway system.

Owing to the destruction of the town's records, it is impossible to say just when the first roads were built to Ellsworth and Sanders Hills. The only thing that can be stated positively is that the first roads to these hills were not located where the roads are now. There were settlers on Ellsworth Hill at a very early date

who had, of course, a path at least to their habitations.

The road system was being constantly extended in the various parts of the town until about 1850. Since about that time there has been a gradual decline. The road on the East Side, by Benjamin Libbey's house to the Warren line, was built in 1845. Before this, the road on the West Side to Warren on the line of the present state road was built, thus establishing through the valley the main road on the same line that is now in use.

The first bridge across Baker's River was the so-called Aiken's Bridge at the village, which has already been described. It is not certain when or where the next river bridge was built. But by the year of 1800 there were in town three across the river:\* one at the upper end of Clarence Eaton's field (this was on the old mill path leading to the east side and Warren); Aiken's bridge at the village below the falls; and the third one at the lower end of Harry Turner's field on the main road to Dorchester.

The Stevens Bridge, known first as "Haines' Bridge," was built in 1810; after this time the bridge in Turner's field fell gradually into disuse.

Brief mention should at least be made of some early stage lines, which used more or less of the highways spoken of in this chapter.

\* Hoyt's History.



The first regular trips to be made through the Baker's River Valley were begun in 1775, when John Balch was appointed by the Committee of Safety "to ride post" throughout the northern country. Starting from Portsmouth, he went to Conway, thence to Plymouth, then via Wentworth to Haverhill. Here he turned south, going down the valley of the Connecticut River to Charlestown, then to Keene and so back to Portsmouth again in fourteen days.

For this service he was to receive seventy silver dollars, or their equivalent, every three months. This arrangement lasted during the entire period of the Revolutionary War. He traveled, of course, on horseback and carried only such dispatches, orders and proclamations as were from time to time issued by the Committee of Safety, the only executive portion of the State Government during the war.

It is hard to say when regular mail service began, but it was not until long after the close of the Revolution. In 1810, or about that time, the post office at Wentworth was established, and up to about 1820 it was used by both Wentworth and Warren. This was the first post office in the Baker's River Valley and for some time the only one. Mail was carried by the post riders. They were usually on horseback, and did not probably make more than two trips a week. The last

post rider through Wentworth was Col. Silas May, at one time a resident of Haverhill. He carried the mail on horseback and was later a driver of one of the mail stages. His title of Colonel was only complimentary, however, as far as can be learned.

The first regular stage line was established in 1811 by William Tarleton, a resident of Piermont, and others. Tarleton was sheriff of Grafton County and a leading spirit in the region. This stage line made regular trips for several months between Haverhill and Concord, but does not appear to have paid the promoters as it was soon abandoned.

In 1814, Robert Morse, a resident of Rumney and a stirring and active man, founded a stage line running between Haverhill and Concord, which continued in active service until the railroad was built and in regular operation.

Soon after 1820 the government gave this line a contract for carrying the mails; two routes were used, one going via the Mayhew Turnpike and Bristol, the other through Plymouth Village. These stages ran for at least a part of the time on alternate days. At times, more than one stage was needed to accommodate the travelers. Robert Morse, the founder and moving spirit of this enterprise, was later ably assisted by his sons, Peabody A., Thomas J. and Stephen C. The Morse Stage Line was successful and profitable but

not able, of course, to compete with the railroad, and so went out of business about as soon as the railroad was thoroughly established.

Eleazer Smith, for many years the landlord of the village hotel, was at one time a stage driver for the Morse Line.

After this mention of the stage lines, it will suffice to say there were not, during the next fifty years, marked changes in the highway system of the town, which had become stabilized in a measure. Some small change would be made from time to time, either by way of an addition if needed, or more likely voting to discontinue some piece of back road that was not now needed. The mileage of highways in town decreased as a whole from 1850 to 1900, and is still decreasing.

With the advent of the automobile about 1900 came soon a demand for a new and improved kind of highway. This clamor has grown louder and more insistent with each succeeding year, and is now a favorite topic with all classes.

The state began about 1900 to assist the towns, in a small way, in the improvement of their roads. In the year 1904, the town voted for the first time to accept state aid, and raised for state road construction the sum of \$400, the state to put in the same amount, dollar for dollar.

It was decided to improve the road through the town lying upon the west side of the river, and thus our present state road is located on the line of the main stage route of earlier years, called by our forefathers the "Great Road."

The first actual construction was done in 1906 under the direction of W. D. Stinson. The work began at the corner where the road to Colburn's Mills begins and ran northward, some 2,100 feet, by Frank Downing's. This road was built of clay and gravel. The clay was soon omitted and the later roads built entirely of the excellent gravel found in many pits in town. One of the best pits was on the railroad land near the depot. This gravel was very clean and dark red in color; when compacted, it made a splendid, durable road, with no trace of mud at any season of the year.

The beginning made in 1906 has been extended until this main line has at the present time all been improved and treated with tarvia.

The road to Orford is also a part of the state system, and it is now (1928) completed more than half way to Brown's Mills. Orford is also building their part of this line, but have several miles in the Mt. Cube region yet to build. Travel over this road is already heavy in summer.

The building and upkeep of these expensive roads



has caused much expense and high taxes; also the town debt has again made its appearance in the town report.

The town bought its first road machine in 1892. At least two previous attempts to have such a machine had been voted down, and in 1892 the motion to raise \$250 for the purpose was carried by only six votes. Thirty-five years later the town, with far less resources than in 1892, could vote \$2,200 for a tractor and snowplow to use on the roads, almost without debate or even a ripple of excitement. Times have certainly changed, perhaps for the better; time only can settle this point.

The generation now living have seen a vast change in transportation: a great part of the passenger traffic and no small portion of our freight is now being carried by automobile and motor trucks upon the highways used by the stage coaches and freight teams of a hundred years ago. Steam railroads, once hailed with delight as mankind's greatest boon, are now fighting for their lives against the competition of motor-driven vehicles using the public highways. The roads again have claimed their own.

As a fitting close to this article on highways is inserted a copy of an ancient Highway Surveyor's Warrant, year of 1804. The original was donated the Webster Memorial Library by Arthur Kimball.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, GRAFTON S.S.

v<sup>s</sup>

*To Samuel Ellsworth Jun. one of the Surveyors of Highways for the Town of Wentworth in Said County. GREETING.*

In the Name of the State of New hampshire you are hereby Required to Levy and Collect in Labour at six Cents per hour for a man and six Cents per hour for a yoke of Oxen, seventeen Cents per Day for a Cart and twenty Cents per Day for a plow of the several persons named in the Rate Bill herewith committed to you the several sums of money affixed to Each of their Names amounting in the whole to the sum of thirty four Dollars and thirty Cents Which is a Highway Tax to make and repair Highways in said Wentworth the year ensuing of which you are to make and repair all the highways from the sawmill Bridg Runing by Joseph Smiths house to Orford Town Line and the Road to John Gardners and to Jeremiah Ellsworth's Land and the Road to the mill Brook on Orford Road so Called and to work on Other Roads when Called on by the Selectmen. Hereof Fail not and if any person or persons named in Said Rate Bill after four Days Notis first Given him her or them shall refuse or neglect to work on the Highway or send a sufficient hand unless he she or they shall make a reasonable excuse to you within four Days after the time set for Said work to be Done in which Case he she or they shall be notified again to work at some Other time and if he she or they then neglect or refuse to work as aforesaid you are hereby authorized and required to Levy and Collect the Delinquents part or proportion of Said money by Distress in the manner as the several Collectors are by Law to do in Collecting the State Tax and you are hereby Directed to settle accounts with and pay the Ballance if any there be in your hands to the Selectmen of Said Town for the Time Being on or before the first Day of June A.D. one thousand Eight Hundred and five for which this shall be your Sufficient Warrant.

Given under our hands and Seal at Wentworth aforesaid this first Day of May A. D. 1804.

AARON JEWETT

JOB EATON

BENJAMIN PAGE

*Selectmen of Wentworth.*

## LIST OF NAMES IN ABOVE WARRANT

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Samuel Ellsworth.....     | \$2.83         |
| Samuel Ellsworth Jun..... | 1.70           |
| Jeremiah Ellsworth.....   | 1.16           |
| John Ellsworth.....       | .68            |
| John Ellsworth Jun.....   | .59            |
| Joseph Smith.....         | 1.93           |
| Benjamin Smith.....       | .77            |
| True Page.....            | 1.30           |
| Benjamin Page.....        | 4. 2           |
| Joseph Hoyt.....          | .68            |
| Polley Smith.....         | .29            |
| Hugh McClellan.....       | 2. 4           |
| Jonath. McClellan.....    | 1.32           |
| John Gardner.....         | 1.93           |
| Thomas Blodget.....       | .16            |
| Samuel Johnson.....       | 2. 5           |
| Currier Page.....         | 1.11           |
| James Eaton.....          | 1.72           |
| Benjamin Rowell.....      | 2.29           |
| John Blodget.....         | .59            |
| Aaron Jewett.....         | 3.19           |
| Jeremiah Jewett.....      | .59            |
| Reuben Witcher Jun.....   | .63            |
| James Aken.....           | .73            |
|                           | <u>\$34.30</u> |

BUILDING OF THE BOSTON, CONCORD AND  
MONTREAL RAILROAD

During the session of legislature of 1845 the Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad Company was incorporated for the building of a railroad from Concord to

the Connecticut River at some point near the mouth of Wells River, Vermont. The Northern Railroad from Concord to the mouth of White River, Vermont was chartered at the same time. A preliminary survey of the route of the B. C. & M. Railroad was made through this town in the fall of 1845. The object was to determine the feasibility of the route over the height of land at Warren and Benton. This survey was made by Mr. Crocker. Much excitement sprung up on the line of this road in consequence of the efforts made by the Northern Railroad Company to defeat the building of this one. The Northern interests finally succeeded in effecting a union of the Passumpsic with their own. The Crocker survey, as it was called, was made through the Buffalo pass on the east side of the town, thence it ran northerly from the village through the east side across Baker's River and followed the west bank of the river to Warren Village. The highest grade in this survey from Concord to Wells River was forty-five feet to a mile. The directors decided that Crocker's route would be too expensive and ordered another survey.

During the year 1849 Thomas N. Pearson made a survey through the town and permanently located the route for the railroad. It followed closely the line of Baker's River entirely through the town. Work of construction was begun. The section from Rumney to



Warren, a distance of about six miles, was let by contract to Harrison Messer. On the 12th day November, 1849, the first ground was broken in town, at the cut near Calvin W. Clifford's house and also near Daniel Eames. This was considered as an occasion of rejoicing, as it settled the question of the final building of the railroad, an event in the minds of many quite doubtful. Mr. Messer employed from one hundred and fifty to two hundred laborers, mostly Irishmen, through the next year, finishing his contract in the spring of 1851. Two Irishmen were killed by bank slides during the winter of 1850 and 1851. With the certainty of the building of the railroad there was a great rise in the price of real estate throughout the town, more especially of the wild lands and most near the village; lands covered with timber, either spruce or hemlock, met with ready sale, and at prices nearly if not quite double what they would have sold for five years previous.

During the early spring of the year 1851 the building of the railroad was finished through the town. On the 27th of May the annual meeting of the company was held in the meetinghouse in the village. A very large number of people from the region around was attracted together at the novelty of seeing the first train of passenger cars enter the town. It was considered a day of public rejoicing by the friends of

the enterprise. A cannon was fired on the hill overlooking the deep cut south of the depot, and the thunder of its discharge echoed and reëchoed from mountain to mountain and from hill to hill while the shrill notes of the steam whistle and the tremendous snort of the iron horse reverberated through the village. About twenty-five hundred people were present, some twelve or fifteen hundred being brought on the cars. The train from the south numbered twelve long passenger cars. On the 2nd of the June following regular trips ran daily to Warren, and on the 10th of May, 1853, just five years from the building of the first section (from Concord to Sanbornton Bridge), the cars ran to the terminal at Woodsville near Wells River.

In order to secure the building and completion of this road the citizens of Wentworth contributed largely, much beyond their means as a rule. Many shares were also purchased at a discount from the contractors of the road as well as taken in exchange for pay and building materials so that in the end a large amount of stock was owned in town. That the sinking of so much money in this enterprise was a cause of much embarrassment after a few years was painfully evident. The losers, however, had partial consolation in the fact that the town collectively had been benefited through the general rise of real estate and the

increase of business within the town. It is believed the amount of stock owned by investors in town on the completion of the road amounted to about six hundred shares, equal to \$60,000 par value.\*

\* Dr. Hoyt.

## CHAPTER II

SCHOOLS — THE WENTWORTH ACADEMY — CHURCH  
HISTORY — THE REV. INCREASE S. DAVIS  
— MEETINGHOUSES

### SCHOOL HISTORY

The history of public schools in Wentworth, as well as all other New Hampshire towns, may properly be divided into three periods.

During the first of these periods, which lasted until 1827, all schoolhouses were built and the schools established and maintained by the town.

By the statute of 1827 and its various amendments, school districts became corporations, with power to own land, build schoolhouses, vote appropriations and elect officers who were placed in full charge of the affairs of their respective districts.

The district system, while possessing some good features, was always productive of much inequality, as it gave the larger and wealthier districts great advantages in the matter of schools.

The third period dates from 1885, when, by state law, all school districts covered by the general statutes were abolished and the town system again established.



All schoolhouses and school supplies now became the property of the town, which also at about this time, began to furnish all text books required by the pupils.

A Board of Education in each town was now placed in charge of school affairs. This system with minor changes has lasted until the present time.

Previous to the organization of the town in 1779, it is fair to assume but little if any action had been taken by the early settlers in regard to schools.

As soon, however, as the town was organized, which made it possible to impose a legal tax, we find money was raised for the support of schools. In the year 1780 the town voted to raise six pounds, payable in corn at the rate of three shillings a bushel, for school purposes. The present value of the sum so raised would be about twenty-nine dollars. But we have reason to believe that this assessment was not paid to the town, for in the warrant for town meeting in the year 1782, we find an article "To see if the town will reconsider the vote of the town the two years past for school money." The voters of the town refused to reconsider but did instruct the constables, Joseph Smith and Enoch Page, not to "Strain \* for the school rates until after the first of September next," without doubt expecting by that time the

\*Meaning to distrain.

crops of corn might be in condition to harvest. In some kind of produce, usually corn or wheat, most often all of the school money was paid previous to 1800. It will be remembered that Governor Wentworth made in the charter a reservation of one share, equal to three lots of land, "For schools for the benefit of the town." This grant constitutes the school land of the present day, the income of which is, or should be, applied to the benefit of our schools throughout the town.

The first schoolhouse was built in 1790. It stood about on the spot where now stands the dwelling house of Robert McLaughlin in the village. During the early period, schools were kept in private houses, a room in the house being rented for the purpose. Usually the owner of the house received a small sum for use of his rooms and for fuel furnished. Thus in 1796, an item reads "Pd. Capt. Whitcher for house rent and wood, thirteen shillings and sixpence." There are many similar items in the selectmen's accounts previous to 1800.

The first division of the town into school districts was made in 1785. In that year the town was divided into five districts, as follows, as nearly as can be judged at the present time:

District No. 1. — From Warren line on the east side of the river to where Charles Gove now lives.

District No. 2. — From the Gove place on the Main or Cross road, so called, to Rumney line.

District No. 3. — That part of the town south of Baker's River on the Dorchester road, including the settlement on the South Branch.

District No. 4. — That part of the town on "Wentworth Hill," so called, now Atwell Hill.

District No. 5. — That part of the town from Aiken's Bridge, including "Ellsworth Hill" and the west side of the river to Warren line.

Only two schoolhouses appear to have been built in these five districts.

The second division into school districts was in the year 1798. Three more districts were added at this time, viz., Ellsworth Hill, the region on the South Branch and the district on the "West Side," so called.

In 1795, the school teachers named in the accounts for that year were Ebenezer St. Clair, Frederic Maltby, Jonathan Eames and Ezekiel Akin; of these, Eames and Akin were townsmen; the other two were evidently imported for the occasion. As the town expended during that year the sum of \$77.68 for teachers' salaries out of a total revenue for all purposes of only \$228.63, it must be admitted they were doing about as much as they could for the town schools. It is probable a school was kept in each district in the course of the year, but the terms were

short. It is doubtful if any district had over six weeks schooling at this time, some not more than four weeks probably, for the entire year.

Changes were made from time to time in the boundaries of the districts, as for instance in 1806, a new West Side district was laid out to begin at Warren line on the West Side and made to include all on that side of the river as well as most of the village. The schoolhouse was nearly where Marshall Brown now lives.

District No. 7 at this time extended from Charles Gove's house to Rumney line on both sides of the river. Two schoolhouses were used, one near Turner's, the other near the Joshua Foster buildings on the west side of the road. (The reader will bear in mind there was then a bridge across Baker's River at the lower end of Harry Turner's field.)

In 1829 the Sanders Hill District was established and given the name of No. 3. The schoolhouse for the south part of the town was about this time removed from near the old Fiske farm, across the South Branch and located near the Ben B. Foster place.

In the year 1830 District No. 8 was formed to accommodate the people of Rowentown, and Zebina Page, the prudential committee for the new district, drew \$16.47 school money for the year.

District No. 9, or as it was called generally, the



“old red school house” district, was established in 1835. It included the part of the village on the easterly side of the river and down by Gove’s to the Rolfe farm. The schoolhouse, of which not a vestige now remains, stood at the foot of the small hill just south of the town hall on the east side of the road.

In 1842 District No. 10 was formed on the Buffalo Road; it included all that part of the old District No. 7, east of Baker’s River. The schoolhouse was on the east side of the road about fifty rods south of Mrs. King’s house. This schoolhouse was burned by an incendiary in 1861. The remainder of District No. 7, lying west of the river, was about 1842, by act of legislature, united with a portion of Rumney, forming a Union District. The schoolhouse was located on Rumney Plain near the town line and is the present Grange Hall.

In 1844, in accordance with an act of the legislature for defining the boundaries of the school districts, the town was redistricted and their limits described as follows, viz:

- District No. 1. — East side of the river from Warren line to the Amos Rollins place, so called. School house where it is now.
- District No. 2. — West side of the river including the part of the village north of the dwellings of George S. Deane and Stephen Dole, commencing at Warren line.
- District No. 3. — Sanders Hill. School house where it now stands.
- District No. 4. — Wentworth Hill. The school house stood where it now does and it is now known as Atwell Hill.

District No. 5. — Ellsworth Hill, with school house where it is now.

District No. 6. — South Branch District. School house near Ben. Foster's.

District No. 7. — Union School District. Wentworth and Rumney.

District No. 8. — Rowentown District. School house near Francis O. Boyd's.

District No. 9. — From the houses of George S. Deane and Stephen Dole in the village to Charles Gove's and from Plato Eames' land on the east side to Christopher N. Palmer's house on the Buffalo road.

District No. 10. — Buffalo District. From the house of David N. Currier to Rumney line and the Cross Road.

In 1855 District No. 11 was formed by a division of No. 2. This district extended on the west side from the Warren line to the town farm. In 1856 District No. 9 was divided and the part lying north of the village bridge was added to District No. 2. In 1858 parts of Districts Nos. 6 and 8 were united with Dorchester for school purposes, forming a Union District with that town.

After the year of 1856 no material changes were made in the districts and no new districts were established. The above arrangement lasted until 1886, when all the districts were abolished by act of legislature.

In many districts the schoolhouses were used as occasion required for community purposes. The Free Will Baptists for many years used the Ellsworth Hill

and also the Atwell Hill schoolhouses for their meetings. The schoolhouses were also used for social gatherings, public meetings, funerals and at times for exhibitions.

In fact, the "little red school house" was no small factor in the life of people born prior to 1880, as many now living can testify that the happiest hours they have ever known were lived in and around the humble, but never to be forgotten spot, where study and play combined to make impressions that never fade from the mind. Few memories outlast those of the schoolhouse of our childhood,

"Its door's worn sill betraying  
The feet that, creeping slow to school,  
Went storming out at playing."

Up to about the year 1820 the schools were in charge of the selectmen; they hired and paid the teachers who were usually men. There is no mention made of a school superintendent until about the above date when payments were first made a superintending School Committee. The amount of these payments varied from year to year but for a long time averaged around \$3.00. Caleb Keith, Enoch Page, Jr., Luke Aiken, Samuel Johnson and Thomas Whipple, Jr., were among the earliest superintendents. If "Master" Page, as he was called, was as vigorous a superintendent as he was a teacher, he

earned his money. He never took any chances of spoiling the child by sparing the rod and for more than forty years his name was one to conjure with, at least among the children. Dr. Hoyt for some time served as superintendent of schools and was much interested in the Academy, taking an active part in its management. Among others who have served as superintendents can be mentioned Rev. J. H. Seagrave, Samuel G. Currier, Amos M. Cogswell, Edward G. Tenney, John B. Foster and Dr. George B. Emerson.

Beginning with 1887, a Board of Education has been in charge of school affairs.

In 1918 the town was made a part of a so-called supervisory district, the schools being thus placed in charge of a salaried superintendent. These officials have been Carl T. Rhoads, Clarence M. Harris, William J. Nelson and Edward A. Janes. Mr. Janes came in 1927 and lives with his family in the Dr. Fraser house in the village. He is in charge of the schools of Wentworth, Warren, Orford and Piermont.

Four schools are now being kept in town, viz.: Atwell Hill, The Foster School, the Buffalo School and the Village; the latter has two teachers, being divided into primary and grammar sections.

Beginning with 1887 a Board of Education has been in charge of school affairs; an incomplete list of these is given below:



- 1887 — Samuel G. Currier, John B. Foster, Francis A. Randall.
- 1888 — Samuel G. Currier, John B. Foster, Thomas Huckins.
- 1889 — Samuel G. Currier, Thomas Huckins, Willis A. Witcher.
- 1890 — Thomas Huckins, Willis A. Witcher, Joshua E. Foster.
- 1891 — Willis A. Witcher, Joshua E. Foster, Franklin Eaton.
- 1892 — Joshua E. Foster, Franklin Eaton, Thomas Huckins.
- 1893 — Franklin Eaton, Thomas Huckins, Charles C. Witcher.
- 1894 — Thomas Huckins, Charles C. Witcher, W. E. Piper.
- 1895 — Charles C. Witcher, W. E. Piper, Edward G. Tenney.
- 1896 — Edward G. Tenney, Isaac S. Crosby, Fannie Boyd.
- 1897 — Isaac S. Crosby, Fannie Boyd.
- 1898 — Isaac S. Crosby, Fannie Boyd, Charles T. Gove.
- 1899 — Isaac S. Crosby, Fannie Boyd, Charles T. Gove.
- 1900 — Isaac S. Crosby, Charles T. Gove, John B. Foster.
- 1901 — John B. Foster, Charles T. Gove, Persis M. Plumer.
- 1902 — Charles T. Gove, Persis M. Plumer, Ben B. Foster.
- 1903 — Persis M. Plumer, Ben B. Foster, Virginia R. Eaton.
- 1904 — Ben B. Foster, Virginia R. Eaton, Jos. H. Merrill.
- 1905 — Virginia R. Eaton, Jos. H. Merrill.
- 1906 — Jos. H. Merrill, Calvin T. Shute, Leona C. Foster.
- 1907 — Calvin T. Shute, Leona C. Foster, Hiram M. Bowen.
- 1908 — Leona C. Foster, Neal D. Johnson, John P. Currier.
- 1909 — John P. Currier, Isaac Crosby.
- 1910 — John P. Currier, Andrew C. Mumler.
- 1911 — Andrew C. Mumler, Charles H. Brown.
- 1912 — Charles H. Brown, Chairman.
- 1913 — Eugene C. Downing, Chairman.
- 1914 — Lettie G. Colburn, Chairman.
- 1915 — Meta Downing.
- 1916 — Meta Downing, Eugene C. Downing, Charles H. Brown.
- 1917 — Meta Downing, Charles H. Brown, Eugene C. Downing.
- 1918 — Anna B. Brown, Chairman.
- 1919 — Eugene C. Downing, Meta M. Downing, Jesse H. Gordon.
- 1920 — Eugene C. Downing, Meta M. Downing, Jesse H. Gordon.

- 1921 — Meta M. Downing, Jesse H. Gordon.  
 1922 — Jesse H. Gordon, Anna B. Brown, Meta Downing.  
 1923 — Jesse H. Gordon, Anna B. Brown, Meta Downing.  
 1924 — Elmer E. Ladd, Anna B. Brown, Meta M. Downing.  
 1925 — Meta M. Downing, Mertie M. Atwood.  
 1926 — None shown in town report.  
 1927 — Mertie M. Atwood, Alson L. Brown, Meta M. Downing.  
 1928 — Alson L. Brown, Meta M. Downing, Beatrice C. Downing.

## WENTWORTH ACADEMY

The Wentworth Academy Association was organized in response to a demand by the people of the town that some means should be provided to furnish higher education than could be obtained in the ordinary common schools of the town. The association, which does not appear to have ever been legally incorporated, was organized March 31, 1848, and the building built the summer following, by subscription.

It cost, including the land for its site, about eleven hundred and thirty dollars. It was paid for by the selling of stock at ten dollars per share. The following is a list of stockholders with number of shares subscribed by each.

| <i>Five shares each</i> | <i>Three shares each</i> | <i>Two shares each</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Peter L. Hoyt           | Asa Dolloff              | Fayette E. Kezer       |
| Oliver S. Cole          | Milo E. Haines           | Abigail Eaton          |
| Jonathan Judkins        | Alonzo A. Whipple        | Asa Goodell            |
| Daniel J. Cole          | <i>One share each</i>    | Amos Tilton            |
| Samuel Herbert          | Samuel S. Colburn        | Wolcott Dana           |

|                   |                   |  |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| J. S. Blaisdell   | Henry Johnson     | Samuel Currier   |
| John Currier      | David D. Kelley   | William D. McQueten                                    |
| Putnam Spaulding  | Ezekiel Aiken     | J. E. Sargent  |
| Enock Clark       | George S. Dean    | Jeremiah Blodgett                                      |
| James K. Page     | James H. Godfrey  | William Gove   |
| Increase S. Davis | William P. Smith  | Ezra Eaton   |
| Jesse Eaton       | William W. Bailey |  |
| E. C. Eames       | Joseph Savage     | Mrs. Samuel Eames,<br>three shares to purchase a bell. |
|                   | Alfred P. Dustin  |  |
|                   | Newell Stanyan    |  |
|                   | Jesse Stetson     |  |

Peter L. Hoyt, John Currier and William Gove were the building committee. The building was erected directly across the street from the village cemetery. The first term of school commenced in September, 1848. Elliot T. Farr of Corinth, Vt., was principal. He taught three terms. Among others who filled the position of principal during the career of the Academy we can mention, Salmon A. Squire, Elizabeth A. Brewster, Samuel J. Edgerly, Isaac W. Hobbs, Samuel B. Page and Horace S. Abbot. The last year the school was in charge of John E. Davis of Rumney.

Shortly after 1870 the school was discontinued. The building was sold by the association to Jonathan Stanyan. Mr. Stanyan built an addition to the south end of the building, remodeled the interior and opened it to the people under the name of Stanyan's Hall, of which more will be related in another chapter.

## CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

The following article is the contribution of Mrs. Aurilla M. Butts, the present clerk of the Church Society in Wentworth. It includes an exhaustive history of the Congregational Society, which, as the language would indicate, is in part a verbatim copy of some of the older records of the church. The records of the Universalist Society are not now to be found. Mrs. Butts' painstaking account is given below in full.

The regard the early settlers had for Gospel Ordinances may be inferred from the fact that, with a single exception, no tax was ever assessed either for preaching or for the building of a meetinghouse. Consequently the only religious instruction enjoyed was given by "itinerants," whose stay never exceeded a few months, often less than a week.

A few Calvin Baptists were found here in 1793. A Free Will Baptist Church was formed in 1808, which died out, but was reorganized in 1833. A Methodist class was formed in 1822-23. Universalists are named in the town records as early as 1801, but no society organized till 1837. The people, however, have been much used to the preaching of that order.

Congregationalists are named in 1808 and preaching of this order was had for short periods from 1815



to 1825 by Revs. Hovey, Fairbanks, Blake and others.

In 1789 the town "voted to build a meetinghouse provided it be done without expense to the town," which vote was carried into effect in 1791. This house was burned April 4, 1828.

The present is a "Union House" and was raised in September, 1828, and dedicated in August of the following year.

The Congregational Church owes its existence, under God, to the labors of Rev. James Hobart, commonly known as "Father Hobart," and was organized September 21, 1830, consisting of eight members — three men and five women.

The first pastor, Rev. Increase S. Davis, was born in Brookline, Mass., May 6, 1797. Read theology under Rev. Jon. Homer, D.D., of Newton, Mass.; was licensed by the Orange Association of Lyme, N. H., November, 1827; ordained pastor of the church in Dorchester, N. H., October 9, 1828. He began his labors with this church on alternate Sundays in May, 1831, and was dismissed from the church in Dorchester, June 19, 1833, and installed pastor of this church June 20, 1833. He, however, seems not to have confined his labors to this people. From May, 1834, to May, 1839, he supplied the church in Orfordville one-half of the time. He then preached one year in Peacham, Vt. After his return he divided his time

between this place and Piermont till the third Sabbath in April, 1856, after which time he preached his farewell sermon to this people. He, however, was not formally dismissed till March 1, 1859. Up to this date the whole number having been received to this church was 110.

There is no record that infant baptism was ever practiced in the church save in one instance Father Hobart baptised three children of Mrs. Dolly Hoit, December 30, 1830.

After a destitution of the means of grace for nearly two years, a few brethren at the opening of the year 1858 procured subscriptions for orthodox preaching to the amount of \$200. Providence favored the measure and the pulpit was supplied nearly every Sabbath through the year by different ministers. The Holy Spirit made the Word efficacious and eight persons were received into the church by profession.

The church being thus encouraged and strengthened resolved upon a reëstablishment of the Ordinances of Religion. Accordingly in October of the same year Rev. Silas M. Blanchard was invited to preach six Sabbaths as a candidate for settlement. A call was then given him to settle as pastor of this church which relation was consummated by an ecclesiastical council March 2, 1859.

Mr. Blanchard was born in Windham, N. H.,

March 9, 1820; united with the Presbyterian Church in his native town in February, 1836; graduated at Dartmouth College in 1842; taught four years in Hancock County, Ga.; commenced his theological studies at Columbia, S. C., and graduated at Andover, Mass., in 1849; was principal of Pembroke Academy two years; ordained by Londonderry Presbytery in Windham, October 27, 1853. Preached in Chichester four and one-half years, and in Bath sixteen months, from which place he removed to Wentworth and commenced his labors January 1, 1859.

November 20, 1860, an Ecclesiastical Council convened to consider whether, under existing circumstances, the pastoral connection of Rev. S. M. Blanchard ought not to be dissolved. Pastors and delegates were present from churches in Hebron, Bradford, Vt., Lyme, Laconia, Plymouth and Haverhill. After a season of prayer certain resolutions passed by the Wentworth church were read to the council, expressing as a unanimous opinion of the church that the interests of religion required that the pastoral connection of Rev. Mr. Blanchard should be dissolved. Full statements were made by the committee assigning the reasons why they desired the dissolution of the pastoral relation. The council, after much deliberation, decided upon the necessity for dismissing the pastor.

For nearly two years, beginning in July, 1861, the pulpit was supplied by Rev. Joseph W. Pickett, a native of Andover, Ohio, and a graduate in the class of 1861 of Andover, Mass., Theological Seminary. In October, 1862, a call was extended to him to become a permanent pastor of the church, but was not accepted, although his labors had been fruitful. In May, 1863, his connection with the church ended, and his brother, Cyrus W. Pickett of New Haven Theological Seminary was engaged to supply the pulpit until January 1, 1863.

Between this date and June 18, 1865, there were various supplies, and at that time Rev. James C. Seagrave was engaged as pastor, which place he held until July 1, 1870, and was then released at his own request. Rev. T. W. May, from Andover Seminary, supplied the pulpit through July and August of that year.

In February, 1871, Rev. D. S. Hibbard, formerly of Ossipee, N. H., was engaged as stated supply for the remainder of the year, when he was recalled and remained as pastor until May, 1875, at which time Rev. George J. Pierce became pastor and held the position until May 1, 1878.

The church was then without a permanent pastor until January, 1880, when the services of T. W. Darling were secured. He served until May, 1883.



The church was then without a regular pastor until September 12, 1885, when Lucien C. Kimball was called as pastor after having served as supply for several months. He remained until August 29, 1886.

Again for a period of two years the church was without a settled pastor. On September 3, 1888, it was unanimously voted to ask Rev. T. W. Darling to return to Wentworth and he complied with the request, beginning his services January 1, 1889 and remaining one year.

In February, 1890, Rev. Edward J. Ross was called but remained only until December of that year, having received a call to East Jaffrey, N. H.

After another period of supply pastorates, Rev. J. S. Gove of Wilmot, N. H., accepted a call for one year, to begin May 29, 1892.

In June, 1893, Rev. E. D. Blanchard was called as pastor.

In December, 1894, a call was again extended to Rev. T. W. Darling, was accepted and he for the third time became pastor of the church. He remained until January, 1901. In March of that year a call was extended to Rev. Frank E. Mills. He accepted the call and remained until the close of the year 1905.

March 4, 1906, Rev. Henry A. Merrill of Atkinson, N. H., preached his first sermon, he having been hired for six months. At the end of that time he was

asked to remain as pastor and on March 3, 1910, he sent his resignation, being ill at the time and unable to occupy the pulpit. It was voted to take no action on the matter until Mr. Merrill could be conferred with. He, however, was unwilling to reconsider, and his resignation was accepted. On May 15, 1910, the services of Rev. J. K. McClure of South Hanson, Mass., was secured, and he closed his work here September 29, 1912. There was no settled minister until May 1, 1913, when Rev. F. C. Bradeen accepted a call to the church, which he served as regular pastor until July, 1919, and for a supply for a short time following that date.

Until January, 1921, the church was without a regular pastor, the pulpit being filled by supplies and candidates. At this time the services of Rev. Andrew Forrest were secured, he remaining one year. His pastorate was followed by that of Rev. J. F. Scott, who remained until July, 1923.

On August 26, 1923, Rev. John G. Vance of Union occupied the pulpit as candidate, and on October 7, a call having been extended to him, he began his pastorate which terminated on October 1, 1927.

The history of the Universalist Society can in the absence of records be stated only in general terms.

We have already mentioned some of the members

who were influential and active at the time of organization in 1837. For some years services were held regularly. As the years passed interest seemed to decline. By 1870 the service was the fourth Sunday of each alternate month.

It has been probably forty years since a Universalist service has been held in the church. Rev. H. S. Fiske, still remembered as an artist of ability, having executed several fine paintings, was perhaps the last clergyman of the Universalist faith to live in town.

During the existence of the Society the following ministers have occupied the pulpit at different times.

Reverends

|               |                    |                  |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Hosea Ballou  | J. W. Moses        | H. S. Fiske      |
| Sylvanus Cobb | J. W. Hansan       | J. S. Kidder     |
| J. G. Adams   | S. W. Squire       | S. A. Johnson    |
| A. C. Thomas  | T. Barron          | J. E. Palmer     |
| F. Whitteman  | Benj. M. Tillotson | Quillen H. Shinn |

### REV. INCREASE S. DAVIS

Rev. Increase Sumner Davis was born at Brookline, Mass., May 6, 1797, son of Ebenezer Davis and Lucy Aspinwall.

He was named for General Increase Sumner, a brother of his great grandmother, of Revolutionary fame, and at that time governor of Massachusetts.

His brother, Thomas Aspinwall Davis, was elected mayor of Boston.

Increase Sumner Davis married Nancy Cook of Brookline, Mass., on the 14th day of May, 1818. He attended school at Brighton, Mass., and later Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass. United with the Congregational Church of Newton, Mass., about 1821, becoming active in the church affairs under its pastor, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Homer, at whose request he went to Dorchester, N. H., in November, 1827. On May 20, 1828, he established a Congregational Church there, continuing as its pastor until June 19, 1833.

While at Dorchester he was asked to come to Wentworth, N. H., and establish a Congregational Church, which was done in September, 1830, and from May, 1831, to June 19, 1833, he divided his time between the two churches.

On June 20, 1833, he was installed as the first minister of the Congregational Church at Wentworth, the installation sermon being preached by the Rev. Dr. Bouton of Concord, and continued as pastor until 1859, removing to Nevinville, Iowa, in 1860.

Mr. Davis was indeed "priest and king to his people" for a quarter of a century, and no needy one was ever turned away from his hospitable door, he being broad-minded and generous. Due largely to his influence the Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad was built through Grafton County.

Near the close of Thanksgiving Day, November



24, 1864, at Fontanelle, Iowa, after morning service in the church, a social afternoon in his home with friends, without anticipation of change, he passed from time to eternity.

He was survived by his two sons, Ebenezer and Thomas Aspinwall Davis, who died without issue, and two daughters, Mary Wright, wife of Samuel Fellows of Wentworth, N. H., and Elizabeth A., wife of Peter L. Hoyt of the same place.

(The foregoing brief sketch of the town's best remembered clergyman is the contribution of one of his descendants, the Hon. Thomas F. Clifford of Franklin, N. H.)

G. F. P.

## MEETINGHOUSES — PAST AND PRESENT

One of the first organized efforts made by the people of the town was to provide a place where religious services could be held. This was equally true of the early settlers of most New England towns apparently. No community was so small, poor or indifferent, that they neglected to arrange for a meetinghouse of some kind within the town. Wentworth was no exception to this wholesome and all but universal custom.

In the year of 1789 the town "Voted to build a meetinghouse, provided it could be done without a tax to the town."

This would indicate the first church was built entirely by private contributions, most of these contributions being no doubt in the form of either labor or material for the building.

The settlers in those days had very little money and the town probably even less.

Ebenezer Gove, John Aiken, Nathaniel White, Samuel Worcester and Gen.<sup>l</sup> Absalom Peters were chosen as a committee to carry out the vote of the town. The committee began promptly to arrange for the building of the meetinghouse. They located the building very properly on the land donated the town in 1787 by Phillips White for use as a burying ground.

In this location, the committee only followed the ancient English custom of burying the dead near the church. The churchyards were almost always cemeteries in olden times. As a matter of fact, interments, especially of the more noted, were often made inside the church walls.

The land given by Phillips White is now the village Common. The first meetinghouse was erected very nearly in front of the present Dr. Whipple house, and upon the Common.

The building itself was about 35 x 40 feet, of one story, with a hip, or four-sided roof. It had no spire, steeple, bell or belfry. There were two outside doors, one entrance being on the easterly, the other on the

southerly side. There is no record of a chimney or any provision for heat in the church. Inside, the church was finished in the standard fashion of those days. There was a lofty pulpit reached by a flight of stairs. There were box pews (called by the irreverent, sheep pens) and a large box pew for the singers.

Inside the pews the plank seats, or at least the most of them, were on hinges and folded up against the side of the pews when the congregation stood or kneeled. At the close of the prayer the seats were dropped back into place with great noise and clatter. No one had an excuse for being asleep during the service in this church. Perhaps this seating system has, after all, much merit. The few windows were small and placed high up in the walls of the church. It is unlikely the building was ever painted either inside or out.

Services were held here from time to time as often as the services of a preacher could be secured. The town refused to accept as a pastor of the Rev. Samuel Currier because he was a Baptist, and had no regular settled minister for many years. In 1806 a scalawag called the Rev. Andrew Harpenden was engaged at an agreed salary of \$250 a year, which was apparently far more than he was worth. Harpenden in a short time ran away with his maid of all work, leaving his wife who seems to have been an

estimable woman, with some very young children to be cared for by the townspeople. Doctor Thomas Whipple after moving to town preached occasionally in this church and received from the town pay for his services.

This church building was, in the year 1814, moved easterly off the Common and placed nearly in front of the present Wentworth Hotel. It stood on that site until April 4, 1828, when it, with several other buildings then standing near where the present church now stands, were burned to the ground.

It might be of interest to add that one of the original building committee (Samuel Worcester) did not live to see the church completed, being accidentally killed in the woods in 1790.

The old meetinghouse had rather outlived its usefulness and was somewhat dilapidated and shabby. Steps had already been taken to arrange for a new and better building before the old one was burned.

The legislature had in 1827 passed an act of incorporation reading as follows:

"Section 1. Be it enacted, etc., That Caleb Keith, Thomas Whipple, Jr., Jonathan Eames, John Page, John T. Sanborn, John Currier, Aaron Jewett, Jr., Enoch Page, Jr., and Moses Eaton, Jr., are hereby made a corporation named the WENTWORTH MEETING HOUSE ASSOCIATION, for the sole purpose of erecting and repairing a meetinghouse, and to hold necessary land, etc., to a value not exceeding \$5,000."



The incorporators met on Saturday, October 13, 1827, and organized. They voted to issue stock to the amount of \$2,000. At a later meeting the amount of stock was increased to \$3,000. The new church would no doubt have been built about on the site where the old one was placed after it was moved, but for the fire of 1828. The buildings having been burned, the way was cleared to build the new meetinghouse where it now stands, which is no doubt a better and roomier location.

Erection of the present building was begun in 1829 and it was a year or more in building.

The church stands today so far as the exterior is concerned in practically its original condition. It is a large, well proportioned building, a credit to its builders and an ornament to the village. The spire is tall and graceful and the sweet tones of the church bell have echoed throughout the valley for a hundred years. The bell was bought by public subscription. The townspeople were so pleased with the sound of this bell, that for several years after it was first hung in the belfry they paid a man to ring it. The interior of the church is of two stories and has been subjected to several alterations. The church as originally built consisted of the entry or vestibule, the auditorium and a spacious gallery. The stairs now leading to the church proper, led then to the galleries.

The main floor of the church was on a level with the present vestibule floor, the main inner entrance being the present inner doors which admit to the old church hall or present chapel.

The church was high, spacious and imposing in the interior.

The pews on the main floor were the old style box pews and had a gate or door at the entrance. The seats in the gallery were not of the box type however.

In the westerly or village end was a huge box pew for the use of the choir; this would hold about thirty people; in the same end was the high, almost sky high pulpit. Two stoves furnished the heat.

In 1867 the interior of the church was rebuilt and made into two stories, the upper floor being used then as now for church purposes: the old box pews and high pulpit were replaced by those in use at the present time and some minor changes made, at an expense of about \$2,100 at this time.

The lower story, or Church Hall as it was called, was remodeled about 1876. The floor was lowered about three feet, a stage built at one end and a kitchen fitted up under the stage. Town meetings were held in this hall for nearly forty years and until the townhouse was built. The hall was also used for public meetings, political rallies, lodge meetings and amateur theatricals for many years. The Grange was

organized and during the first part of its existence met regularly here. The Reform Club during the last years of its activity met here and was succeeded by a Lyceum Society, or debating club, which ran for several years. Public Christmas trees were set in the hall at different times in former years, an event eagerly awaited by the children of fifty years ago.

About 1910, during the pastorate of Rev. Henry A. Merrill, further changes were made in the church interior.

The singers' gallery was closed up and the choir and organ removed to the northeasterly corner of the church, a furnace was installed and the stoves removed.

Down stairs, the old Church Hall was partitioned off, making in the basement a chapel suitable for prayer meetings or parish meetings of any kind.

The building is still, as it always has been, in a sense public property, that is, it is not now and never was, the exclusive property of any denomination. It has been used at times by the different denominations represented in town as their needs have required, and is at the present time a church building dedicated to the use and benefit of any religious society in the town for services as occasion may require.

Mention has already been made of the church now

upon Atwell Hill, near the schoolhouse. This was built largely by the efforts of the Wright family and Mrs. Xilpha Chase, for the use of the Free Will Baptists of the region.

It is still used as a chapel and for religious services whenever needed.

Rev. Arthur H. Sargent the present pastor at the village, has made frequent use of this Atwell Hill chapel.

He has also held many services in the Foster district schoolhouse for the benefit of those living in the south part of the town.



## CHAPTER III

### OF DOCTORS — OF LAWYERS

#### DOCTORS WHO HAVE LIVED AND PRACTISED IN TOWN

The first doctor who ever came to town was one THOMAS FOSTER, who arrived in 1792 and remained about two years. He lived upon the place later owned by William Moore.

Dr. DAVID GIBSON was the first physician who made a real contribution to the history of the town. He moved here probably in the year of 1798. During the first years of his residence he taught school in addition to attending to his medical practice.

Dr. Gibson was a prominent, useful and well respected citizen. He served as selectman three years, and represented Wentworth and Rumney in the legislatures of 1807, 1809 and 1811. While in town he lived upon what was in later years the Joshua Foster place.

In 1814 Dr. Gibson moved to Rumney, remaining a citizen of that town, and in the active practice of his profession in that and the adjoining towns until



A SUGAR CAMP



HIGH STREET



the end of his long and useful life. He was a kindly man who was greatly esteemed by the people among whom he passed all the active years of his life.

Dr. BENJAMIN KNOWLTON came from Dorchester in 1802, remaining in town until the end of his active and rather eventful career.

Dr. Knowlton can properly be classed as a physician, hotel keeper, farmer, or the village sexton. He followed all these lines, and occasionally appears to have followed them all at the same time. His knowledge of medicine was not exhaustive, and many stories have been told regarding some of his fearful and wonderful concoctions, given in liberal doses without regard to age, sex, color or social standing.

In the year 1804 he built and opened a public house, on the main street of the village, fronting the Common. This was the beginning of the old village hotel. The building erected by Dr. Knowlton was later greatly enlarged and a second story added to it. Having served as the main village hotel for eighty-five years, it was finally destroyed by fire in 1890.

Dr. Knowlton later built and occupied the large three story house located near the upper end of the common, known to our generation as the Deacon Dean house. This was, so far as the writer is aware, the only three-story house ever built in town. It was a fine looking, spacious, well proportioned building



with a handsome front porch, and shaded by large, flourishing maples.

The house was always well kept up and was an ornament to the village. Dr. Knowlton also had for many years a farm on the East Side, where he kept quite a large stock. He seems to have been a stirring and substantial citizen who received much benefit from his medical practice. Possibly his patients may have benefited also.

Dr. Knowlton died sitting in his chair without previous warning. His wife died some two years later and almost as suddenly. Both are buried in the cemetery at the village.

The year of 1814 marked the arrival in town of one destined to exert a very great influence in the public as well as the private affairs of the citizens, and who eventually became a person of much consequence, not only in the frontier township which he had chosen for his home, but throughout the state, and from the fact that later he was a member of Congress from New Hampshire for eight successive years, became, it may fairly be said, a figure of national importance.

Dr. THOMAS J. WHIPPLE was born in Lebanon, N. H., in 1787 and received his education in the common schools; he also attended an academy for a short time. He studied medicine with Dr. Ezra Bartlett of Warren for about two years, and then

went to Hanover, N. H., for the purpose of completing his medical education. While at Hanover he was a student of Dr. Nathan Smith of that town. After attending lectures at the Dartmouth Medical College, he received his diploma August 4, 1810. In the meantime he acquired a knowledge of the classics and could in later years quote from memory most of Virgil, also freely from Milton and Shakespeare.

Dr. Whipple practised medicine a short time at Bradford, Vt., and moved to Warren in 1811. He held town office in Warren and was prosperous there, but decided to locate in Wentworth permanently and came here with his family in 1814 and remained the rest of his life. He shortly assumed in Wentworth a position of leadership and retained it to the time of his death. The life of a country doctor having an extensive practice in a scattered community was and is a laborious one. But Dr. Whipple found time to do much more than that. He became the political leader of the entire region. He represented Wentworth in the legislature in 1818, 1819 and 1820, where his influence was such that he secured in 1819, the passage of the so-called "Toleration Act." His part in promoting the passage of this much discussed and far reaching piece of legislation, has hardly been understood or appreciated, even by the people of his own town. Briefly, the situation was as follows:

Previous to 1819 the settled minister of any town or parish was to all intents and purposes a town official. His salary, or at least the most of it, was paid by the town and raised by taxation as a part of the taxes assessed therein. As it happened a large majority of the inhabitants in the state were Congregationalists, hence the ministers were almost entirely of that faith. There were, however, in the state many Baptists, Methodists and members of other sects, and also doubtless, then as now, those of no professed religious belief. These people had long chafed and complained because of the fact they were compelled to pay taxes for the support of churches to whose doctrines they did not subscribe, and to which they felt they owed no allegiance.

No doubt in many localities the law was by tacit agreement not enforced, but in many other towns attempts to enforce it led to bitter complaint and organized resistance in some cases, as witness the dispute in Plymouth, when in 1777 and several years thereafter many citizens, among them some of the most prominent men of the town, who had embraced the Baptist faith, paid their tax under protest, and finally refused to pay at all. Without going further into the details of that unhappy controversy, it is sufficient to say, that in 1780 the town of Plymouth voted, "All persons of the Baptist principles, who are

not inclined to hear Mr. Ward, be excused from ministerial taxes." Similar action was taken in other disputed cases.

The law remained, however, in full force, and all efforts to repeal it aroused violent, bitter and determined opposition. Bills looking to its repeal got very scant support in the House and still less in the state Senate. Finally in 1819, after some fifty years of agitation, the issue was made when Dr. Whipple in the legislature of that year introduced the famous "Toleration Act," so called, and advocating its passage by many able and eloquent speeches, finally carried the measure through and it became a law.

By its terms, all denominations in New Hampshire were placed upon an equality, and every person was free to support preaching or not as he might feel disposed.

That Dr. Whipple was right in his contention for what is in effect religious freedom for the individual, is established by the fact that in the more than one hundred years elapsed since the Toleration Act was passed, no serious attempt has been made to repeal it, and beyond question any attempt looking to its repeal at the present time would receive very scant consideration.

The prestige and popularity of Dr. Whipple at this period is evidenced by the fact that in 1821 he was



elected to Congress and reëlected in 1823, 1825 and 1827, serving in Congress four full terms, eight years in all, a longer period of service than any man from New Hampshire had enjoyed up to that time. In Congress he was active and influential.

In his profession of medicine he was rated as a physician of exceptional skill, his practice extending over a large territory and even going to towns in Vermont. He had pleasing and easy manners and was noted for his witty and entertaining style. For some years he was able in addition to many other duties to carry on the business of corresponding secretary of the Grafton County Agricultural Society; and also in the militia of New Hampshire reached the grade of brigade aide de camp. His standing as a medical man is established by his service as president of the Grafton District Medical Society which included about all of northern New Hampshire.

Dr. Whipple was married first to Phoebe Tabor of Bradford, Vt., and second to Priscilla Pierce of Royalton, Vt. By the first wife there were children as follows: Alonzo A., born February 27, 1811; Thomas J., born January 30, 1816; Walter G., born in November, 1818; Caroline B., born April 1, 1820. Of some of these children more will be said later on.

Dr. Whipple was a talented and versatile man of great natural ability. It is said of him that he could

and sometimes did, in the absence of a minister, conduct the religious services in the village church, and could preach an excellent sermon.

He died January 23, 1835, in his forty-eighth year and is buried at the village. His plain marble headstone bears the simple inscription "Dr. Thomas J. Whipple, 1787-1835." It will probably be the verdict of history that his death marked the passing of a leading citizen of the region in which he lived, and Wentworth's greatest man.

JOHN T. SANBORN, M.D., came to Wentworth, it is said, from Gilford, N. H., in 1827. He practised in town for some ten years, leaving probably in 1838. He appears to have been quite fairly popular as well as prosperous during his stay in Wentworth. He was an active politician and served as representative in 1830 and 1832.

He owned in the village at least a portion of the land where the meetinghouse now stands. The buildings upon that site were used for hotel and stable purposes by Dr. Sanborn and possibly by others. They were, however, all burned at the time of the great fire in 1828. The old meetinghouse was also burned at the same time. It is due to this fire, beyond a doubt, that our present meetinghouse was built at the time it was and located on the spot where it now stands.

ALONZO A. WHIPPLE, M.D., son of Dr. Thomas and

Phoebe Tabor Whipple, and their first child, was born February 27, 1811, probably at Bradford, Vt.

He inherited much of his father's genius for medicine, and was educated as a physician. Soon after his father's death in 1835 he began the practice of his profession in town. For more than thirty years he shared with Doctor Hoyt the medical business of Wentworth, as well as that of the towns adjoining. He ranked high in his chosen profession. As an evidence of the extent of his practice, it may now be stated that several years before he gave up active practice his books showed he had been in professional attendance at the birth of over a thousand children. Included in this enumeration, is the humble, let us trust, not wholly indifferent individual who now writes these lines.

The doctor does not appear to have fallen heir to either his father's taste or capacity for public life. He was, however, elected representative in 1854 and 1856.

Dr. Whipple lived many years in the house now owned by Robert McLoughlin. Later he bought the Putnam Spaulding house fronting the Common and lived there until his death. This fine old house with a colonial doorway and a fan light above the door has for a hundred years been a landmark in the village. It is still known to the older generation as

the Whipple house. The doctor was fond of books and always a great student with a very retentive memory.

In person he was of medium height, well built, with small and shapely hands and feet. He grew very infirm as the years advanced, being unable to practise much the later part of his life. During this period he was a familiar figure in the village, as wrapped in a heavy gray shawl and usually wearing slippers he strolled upon the Common or went to the post office for his mail.

Dr. PETER L. HOYT was the son of Abner Hoyt, a revolutionary soldier who fought under Stark at Bennington and was born March 26, 1814, upon the Hoyt farm on the west side of the river in Wentworth. He was a graduate of Dartmouth Medical College, class of 1837. After his graduation he practised two years in Peacham, Vt. He then returned to Wentworth and began there the medical and other activities which filled fully the remaining years of his life. He had a large general medical practice in Wentworth and elsewhere and became a successful, as well as busy, physician. He was always distinguished for his progressive ideas and public spirit. He thus naturally became a leader in various movements which he believed would be of moral or material benefit to the community.

He was a member of the Congregational Church



and a regular attendant. He was active in the promotion of the cause of temperance, practising it himself as well as advising others to do so. He took much interest in school matters, for a long time being charged with their superintendence, either alone or as one of a committee. At the formation of the Wentworth Academy Association, Dr. Hoyt's name headed the list of those who furnished the funds for that purpose. He was what is now termed a lover of nature and a naturalist who observed closely and described clearly. Probably he had little time for political matters. He was, however, at all times a staunch Republican and as such served in 1857 as selectman.

During his long residence in town he acquired from the older people, as well as from the early records, a great fund of information relating to the town, its people and its history. This knowledge was from time to time reduced to writing and is in book form. Thus he prepared a manuscript history entitled, "The First Hundred Years of Wentworth, 1770-1870." This very valuable and important work has been well bound and is now in the Webster Memorial Library, where it can be consulted by the public as occasion or interest may require.

His wife was Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Increase S. Davis. Of their seven children, three sons

and four daughters, none remained in town to live, but they usually spend some portion of the summer at the old home. Dr. Hoyt's modest and tasteful cottage, standing in the upper part of the village is still owned by the family, and is in practically the same condition as when it was the home of the doctor and his household. His sign "Dr. Hoyt" still hangs above the door as it did during his life, and the general appearance of the place has changed but very little in the lapse of nearly sixty years. His youngest son, Edward M., has been for many years a practising physician in Georgetown, Mass.

The doctor was injured by being thrown out of his team in February 1871, and gradually failed from that time. He died on June 4, 1871, and with Mrs. Hoyt and their son Eustis who died in early manhood, deeply regretted by all who knew him, is buried in the village, in the midst of scenes he loved and described so well.

SAUL S. STEVENS came to Wentworth from Canaan, N. H., in 1833. He practised here until 1840 and then returned to Canaan. Later he went from there to Lowell, Mass. In Lowell he prospered financially so well that in 1850 he decided to live an easier and more retired life. He returned to Wentworth and bought the farm at the river bridge first settled by Hugh McClellan and now (1929) owned by Mr. Rolfe. Dr.

Stevens improved the place greatly. He enclosed the field with a tasteful picket fence, cultivated vines, flowers and shrubs and adorned the grounds in various ways. For many years it was one of the attractions of the town. During this period, his practice was not extensive. Dr. Stevens removed to Nashua in 1867 and lived in that city the remainder of his life. His son, Albert S. Stevens, was for several years a storekeeper in the village, the firm Stevens and Phillips having their place of business in the store building later owned and used by John A. Davis.

Dr. FREEMAN A. DURKEE came from Rumney in 1869. He belonged to the Botanical School of Medicine and did but little, if any, surgery. He acquired quite an extensive practice, however, was a good citizen and prospered in town.

Dr. Durkee's house, standing about where Mr. Charles Sprague's house is now, was burned in the daytime. The doctor then built the present large and substantial house on nearly the site of the old one.

The doctor left town about 1898, removing to Lakeport, where he spent several years, finally removing to Andover, where he died in 1916.

Dr. JOHN A. WHITMORE came with his family from Portland, Maine, in 1872. He lived at one time in the house at the end of the village bridge, now owned by Eugene C. Downing; about 1880 he bought the house

at the head of the main street, later the home of Doctor Fraser, remaining there until his death some five years later.

Dr. Whitmore was a skilful physician with an extensive general practice. He was a handsome, well-built man of medium height, of rather slight proportions. His manners were courtly at all times and he was precise and correct in speech and action. He was a great smoker and it has been said he seldom used a pipe the second time. He bought clay pipes by the box and not infrequently had the box in his buggy as he rode out to make his visits. No member of the doctor's family is now living. He, with his wife, is buried at Hebron meetinghouse.

Dr. SAMUEL FRASER was of Scotch descent and Canadian birth. He was born at Leeds Village, P. Q., December 15, 1877, the son of John and Jane (Alexander) Fraser. He was educated in the local schools and Inverness Academy. He entered McGill Medical College, Montreal, in September, 1900, and graduated in June, 1904.

He came to Wentworth in September of the same year with his family and began there the practice of his profession. He lived in the house formerly owned by the late Dr. Whitmore, and remained there until he moved with his family to New Boston, N. H., in June, 1920.



Dr. Fraser was a valuable and highly respected citizen, who made friends easily and retained their friendship and esteem by deserving it. He was a skilful physician, a good townsman, and with his wife and children, made a welcome addition to the town and its population. His departure has been much regretted by all.

Since the death of Dr. Hoyt and retirement of Dr. Whipple, various physicians have come into the town and practised a longer or shorter time.

With the exception of Drs. Durkee, Whitmore and Fraser, none of them remained in town long enough to become really identified with the town and its people.

We can mention in this class, with the years of their residence, the following:

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| M. C. Eaton.....               | 1870      |
| Haven Palmer.....              | 1872      |
| Quincy A. Ballou, dentist..... | 1880      |
| George B. Emerson.....         | 1885-1888 |
| W. L. Goodale.....             | 1889      |
| O. L. Corliss.....             | 1892      |
| T. Kitson Bruce.....           | 1895      |
| E. P. Lunderville.....         | 1898      |
| G. H. Sanborn.....             | 1900-1904 |
| E. C. Ladd.....                | 1922-1925 |

Of the above, Dr. Emerson is remembered as being a man of much ability; he served as superintendent of schools and made many friends in town.

Dr. Corliss moved to Rumney and was there for many years.

Dr. Sanborn also removed to Rumney, practising there until a short time ago.

Dr. Ladd was the last doctor to live in town; he moved to Warren in 1925 and has since gone to live in Maine.

The dates given in above list are only approximate and should not be scanned too critically; it is possible, too, there may be omissions, but it has been a pleasure to write of the doctors of Wentworth, who were many of them excellent and able men, and who as a class reflected credit on the town as well as on themselves and their profession.

## LAWYERS

The following account, so far as it relates to the different members of the legal profession who have at sometime practised in Wentworth, is very largely the work of the late Jona. E. Sargent. As probably Judge Sargent was better qualified to write with authority on this subject than any person now living, it is proper that his article be used as a basis for historical record, making only such changes as the limits of space and the vicissitudes of fifty years may require.

The first lawyer to practise and reside in Went-

worth was LOAMMI DAVIDSON, Esq., so far as we can learn. He came here about 1813 and was admitted to the Bar of Grafton County at the Court of Common Pleas, February term, 1817. He never did much at law, but was more a man of business. He was about five feet ten inches in height, wore side whiskers, and of a sprightly and animated appearance. He left Wentworth about 1819, going to New York state, and died soon afterwards. His wife was a daughter of Col. Amos Tarleton of Piermont.

Hon. WARREN LOVELL was born in Rockingham, Vt., December 3, 1802, and educated in the common schools and Chester, Vt., Academy; was admitted to the Vermont Bar in 1825 and in that year came to Wentworth; was admitted to the Grafton County Bar; opened a law office in Wentworth and practised there 1825-26. He then removed to Meredith Village. Judge Lovell had in Belknap County a long and distinguished career as a lawyer, judge of probate and banker, dying in 1875 universally respected.

Hon. JOSIAH QUINCY of Rumney soon after 1825 made it a practice to visit Wentworth regularly on certain days, and soon made it a habit to come each Saturday transacting such legal business as came his way. He continued this arrangement until 1840, and for more than ten years he did the legal business for the townspeople in this way, as much as though he

had been an actual resident, but he never lived in Wentworth.

Col. THOMAS J. WHIPPLE was a native of Wentworth, the son of Dr. Thomas Whipple and Phoebe Tabor Whipple. Born January 30, 1816; educated at New Hampton, Bradford, Vt., and Norwich University; read law with Josiah Quincy, and also at Johnson, Vt., with Salmon Wires; was admitted to the Bar in 1840, and settled at once in Wentworth, where he soon had a very extensive law business and was appointed postmaster. He had a very decided taste for military affairs and raised an independent company called the Wentworth Phalanx, before 1840. He volunteered for the Mexican War, was commissioned first lieutenant in the Ninth U. S. Infantry, April 9, 1847, and became adjutant of Colonel Pierce's regiment in the May following; went to Vera Cruz, was there taken prisoner and later exchanged at Jalapa. He also served on Adj. Gen. Lewis' staff. He came back when the war was over, and the people of Wentworth had a public reception in his honor. Soon afterwards he settled in Laconia which was henceforth his home. At the outbreak of the Rebellion he volunteered for service and was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the First New Hampshire Regiment, colonel of the Fourth, and was chosen for colonel of the Twelfth Regiment but not mustered in.



In civil life he filled many honorable and responsible positions. He was assistant clerk and later clerk of the New Hampshire House of Representatives; solicitor of Belknap County, secretary of the Constitutional Convention of 1850; also a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1876; was attorney for many large corporations, besides enjoying an extensive general law practice.

Colonel Whipple was an able though eccentric lawyer, an advocate of great power, with original thoughts and power of forcible expression and at all times a genial friend and companion.

BENJAMIN POOLE, Esq., bought out in 1844 the office and business of Colonel Whipple and practised law in town for about a year and a half. He then sold back to Colonel Whipple all the property he had bought from him and moved away, becoming later a very successful business man in Boston.

SAMUEL HERBERT, Esq., was born in Rumney, December 17, 1813, and studied law with Josiah Quincy; was admitted to the Bar and in 1847, having bought out Colonel Whipple's business, he moved to Wentworth and practised law in Wentworth for five years. Then he returned to Rumney. He was successful as a lawyer and business man, and for many years a leading citizen of Rumney.

Hon. J. EVERETT SARGENT, LL.D., or Jona. E.

Sargent as you prefer, known universally in Wentworth as "Judge Sargent," was born in New London, N. H., October 23, 1816. With no resources except his own earnings he acquired an education and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1836.

After graduation he studied law with the Hon. William P. Weeks of Canaan, and also was in Washington, D. C., for a while where he continued his studies and was admitted to the Bar in that city in April, 1842.

He was admitted to the New Hampshire Bar in 1843, and was law partner with Mr. Weeks in Canaan until 1847. He was successful in Canaan, became a militia officer of high rank and solicitor of Grafton County in 1844.

In June, 1847, he removed to Wentworth, where he soon secured an extensive and lucrative law practice. His record as a public man is a long and impressive one. He was for ten years county solicitor of Grafton County; member of the legislature 1851, 1852 and 1853; the first year being chairman of the committee on incorporations, the second year chairman of the judiciary committee, and the third year he was elected speaker of the House of Representatives; in 1854 Mr. Sargent was elected senator from District No. 11 and was chosen president of the Senate on the organization of that body.

In April, 1855, he was appointed a judge of the Court of Common Pleas and remained a judge of that court until 1859 when the court was abolished and he was immediately appointed to a seat on the bench of the Supreme Judicial Court, which place he held for fifteen years. He also held many other political, business and fraternal offices. He was an active and, it is unnecessary to add, exceedingly able man. His first wife was Miss Maria C. Jones of Enfield and while a resident of Wentworth he married for his second wife Miss Louise Jennie Page, daughter of Deacon James K. Page of Wentworth.

Judge Sargent built several houses in Wentworth and had a large farm there. He served as grand master of Free and Accepted Masons of New Hampshire in 1864 and 1865. From Dartmouth College he received in 1869 the degree of LL.D., the highest honor in the power of the college to bestow.

Judge Sargent disposed of his estate in Wentworth and removed to Concord in 1869, having been a citizen of the town for twenty-two years. His beautiful residence there was burned in 1868. The building used by Judge Sargent as a law office in Wentworth was moved, an addition built to it and now forms a part of the house on the Buffalo Road formerly owned by Mrs. Thomas Esty and now owned and occupied by her daughter, Mrs. Nellie Clark.

Hon. LEWIS W. FLING came with Judge Sargent from Canaan to Wentworth as a student. After Mr. Fling's admission to the Bar in 1851, he entered into a partnership with the Judge, remaining in business in that manner for some two years, when the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Fling moved to Bristol, where he opened an office and continued to practise successfully in Bristol as long as he lived.

Hon. THOMAS J. SMITH was born in Dorchester, N. H., April 18, 1830, and graduated from Dartmouth College in the class of 1848. He studied law in Judge Sargent's office and was admitted to the Bar in January, 1855.

After admission he was a partner of Mr. Sargent's, remaining until the latter's appointment to the bench, when Mr. Smith continued the practice alone. He represented Wentworth in the legislature during the entire Civil War period, 1861-65 inclusive, five terms in all. He was senator of District No. 12, 1866-67; also postmaster 1857-61. Mr. Smith was rated a good lawyer and was quite distinguished as a political speaker, both in the legislature and out of it for many years. His wife was Miss Sarah S. Kelly of Wentworth. Desiring a larger field for legal practice he moved in 1868 to Dover, N. H., and in later years to Washington, D. C. His last days were spent at Manasquan, N. J.



CHARLES AUGUSTUS DOLE was the son of Stephen Dole, who was for a long time station agent at Wentworth. He was born at Lunenburg, Mass., June 20, 1834. Mr. Dole was another of the students of Judge Sargent and after his admission to the Bar in 1857, practised law in town for a year or more. In July, 1858, he was appointed clerk of the Court for Grafton County and removed to Haverhill, where he remained as clerk for sixteen years, when he moved to Lebanon. He practised law there, was representative to the legislature and finally a member of the State Board of Equalization.

HON. CHARLES HENRY BARTLETT was born in Sunapee, N. H., October 15, 1833, and having studied law was admitted to practice in 1858, coming to Wentworth the same year, where he remained in the practice of his profession for five years, when he removed to Manchester. He was successful as a lawyer and has had in Manchester a long and distinguished career.

WILLIAM A. FLANDERS, Esq., was born and educated in Canaan. Studied law with George W. Murray, Esq., and admitted to the Bar in 1863. He commenced practice in Wentworth the same year and remained in Wentworth as a lawyer until his death in 1909.

"Squire Flanders" as he was always called, was a

fine looking man, with piercing black eyes, jet black hair and swarthy skin. He was of medium height, well built, and as a young man notable for physical strength and endurance.

He had a large library and was all his life a close student. As a lawyer he ranked higher as a counsellor and adviser than as a practitioner in court.

His wife was Miss Angie L. Clark of Canaan and they had five children.

Mr. Flanders lived during the most of the forty-six years he spent in Wentworth in the large square house in the village fronting the Common, and next to the Doctor Whipple house. The place is known to this day as the Flanders house.

JOSEPH CLEMENT STORY appears to be the last man who has come to Wentworth to practise law. Born in Sutton, N. H., August 30, 1856; he taught school; read law and was admitted to the Bar in 1880, and directly after began to practise at Wentworth where he remained for three years, when he removed to Plymouth and was a resident of Plymouth until his death. He was successful, both as a lawyer and business man, becoming widely known during the years of his life in Plymouth, as a lawyer and man of affairs.

From 1868 to 1871 another lawyer resided in the town, in addition to those already mentioned.

His name was Horace S. Moore. Moore does not appear to have been prosperous in town, or ever to have done much in his profession.

The tradition is he died in town; at any rate he failed to make an impression on the townspeople during his residence among them, and definite information in regard to him or his fate is sadly lacking at this late day.

## CHAPTER IV

### MILLS AND MILLMEN — TAVERNS AND TAVERNKEEPERS

#### MILLS AND MILLMEN

A fisherman following along the banks of our larger brooks often comes, at times unexpectedly, on the foundations of old dams, ditches which have evidently been built for canals, mill races and other evidence that the waters of our streams were at some time used for mill purposes.

In many cases these mills must have been of the so-called "thunder shower" type, that is, only able to run a few weeks in the spring or during the time of heavy rains; others had a more reliable flow of water. Taken altogether, they constituted a milling industry of importance and contributed much to the prosperity of the community.

The first mill was the saw- and gristmill built by William Hackett for the proprietors, of which he was one. This mill was on the Pond Brook, and has already been described. It was the first mill in the entire region and the only one for several years, being used for the benefit of the people of Warren as well as



those of our own town. John Akin, the pioneer, built the next one, on the falls in Baker's River at the village. This was quite an undertaking for those early settlers, who had to make on the spot about all parts of the mill and equipment. The millstones were no doubt imported from somewhere, as well as the irons for the sawmill which Akin later added to a gristmill, which was his first venture. The Akin Mills were held by the family until around 1840. They were repeatedly damaged by floods, first seriously in 1785. In 1814 or 1815, they were again wrecked by high water. The dam and sawmill were then thoroughly rebuilt by Ezekiel Aiken. This was the old crib work dam and sawmill which stood on the spot until recent years. The mill was finally bought by William Haines, who had it a long time. It then was owned a few years by one William Capen and last by Thomas P. Nutting, who also owned the building on the other side of the river used as a wheelwright shop at times, for a while by Van Merrill as a tannery and glove shop and lastly by Nutting for woodworking purposes. A long flume ran from the dam along the face of the ledge to the wheel which furnished the power for the old shop. Nutting took out the old up-and-down saw in his sawmill and installed a circular saw and edger.

Nutting was a rather eccentric man, who, for no



BAKER POND AND A PART OF CAMP PEMIGEWASSET



particular reason, was rather unpopular with the village boys. These scamps felt impelled at times to have, as they expressed it "some fun with Old Nutting," and would sometimes go late at night into the old sawmill and hoist the gate, thus setting the wheel and more or less other machinery to going. They would then flee from the wrath to come. In time, Nutting or somebody would go and shut the gate, thus restoring peace to the souls of the villagers for the time being. The firm of Knight and Crosby, about 1878, built a bobbin mill on the back of the old sawmill and made bobbins there until the whole plant was burned in 1885, or about that date.

One of the very early mills was built on the Tural or Ellsworth Hill Brook by Capt. Ebenezer Gove and John Lyster (Leicester).

This mill was located near Gove's Falls, a wild and romantic spot. But Captain Gove and Leicester were more interested in sawing boards than conserving scenery. This mill ran for many years and sawed out, from first to last, a good deal of lumber.

Walter and Rufus Stevens had once a sawmill on the Mountain Brook, at the very foot of Carr's Mountain. Traces of the old dam and mill site can still be seen. The lumber used to build the first railroad bridges in town, and also the first depot, was sawed by the Stevens men at this



mill, from spruce logs cut on the slopes of Carr's Mountain.

About 1820 Timothy Gile, then living on the Plummer farm and a large landholder, started on a mill project. Gile was ambitious and must have been a glutton for hard work.

He built a stone dam in the Mountain Brook above the great falls. He then piped the water of the brook through a large hollow log into a canal which led over the brow of the hill to a point in the field almost directly east of the Buffalo schoolhouse. He also made a dam in the brook which runs along near and about parallel with the Buffalo Road. He thus turned the waters of that brook into a ditch and united the waters of the two streams at a point where he located his mill. After all this endless toil and trouble, it was not much of a success and was probably not operated enough to amount to anything. Gile's ditches, however, bid fair to last until the day of judgment and for ten days thereafter.

Jeremiah Smart possibly a little later, but not much, did exactly the same thing in effect on the lower reaches of these same brooks near the river.

Smart's Landing and old mill yard were plainly in evidence within the memory of men now living. The Smart Mill was a much more efficient and suc-

cessful enterprise than the Gile Mill ever was. It ran intermittently for many years.

The Pond Brook has no doubt been used for mill purposes more than any other stream in town. As the two Baker Ponds, acting as storage reservoirs, insured a reasonably steady, constant flow of water, while the great drop from the outlet of the ponds to Baker's River furnished an abundant amount of fall, mill sites were once numerous along the course of this stream.

The original development of the fall at the outlet of the pond was made at an early date. In the year 1800 Aaron Jewett, with Jeremiah Jewett, who was probably his son, acquired one hundred acres of unimproved land at the lower end of the pond. The Jewetts were the first to develop and use the power on the site later known for many years as Brown's Mills.

The Jewetts were an active and capable race: they built mills, did more or less business, and were generally prominent in town affairs for fifty years. Aaron Jewett was frequently a selectman. In 1849 the mill property was sold by the Jewetts to Jonathan Judkins. The Jewetts then moved to the village and were interested there in some of the property that was destroyed in the great flood of 1856. Previous to this flood, Judkins had sold his mill property to Stephen Aldrich, who in turn sold it later to A. L. and W. G.

Brown. An account of their activities has already been related.

At the time of the flood in 1856 there was on the Pond Brook a majority of all the mills and shops in the town, and they were all put out of business at this time except the Mellen Mill. The heaviest losers were perhaps David Harris and Alpha Jewett.

The Keasor brothers, Ferdinand and Fayette, had a mill on the Atwell Hill Brook; in fact there were two mills of a sort once on that stream. There was also once a sawmill on Martin's Brook, owned by the Pillsbury family.

John F. A. Peabody arrived during the year 1826 in town and began at once the development of the mill site on the South Branch, later owned for a long time by the Colburns.

In 1827 Peabody had a mill in operation and, in the course of the next five years, became possessed of the largest and perhaps best equipped plant in the town at that time. As fully developed, it consisted of a gristmill with two sets of stones, a complete bolter for sifting and bolting the wheat and rye flour, a carding mill for carding wool and a fulling mill where the homespun cloth could be scoured, fullled, dried and finished with a teazle. At a later period a saw and shingle mill were added to the equipment. Taken as a whole, it constituted a business of importance.

Peabody sold out his mill property to James M.

Colburn. The Colburns added a store which was managed by James Melvin Colburn, and also built a blacksmith shop. The Colburn family retained for a long time the business at Colburn's Mills.

The last man to use the power at this place was William D. Stinson. The carding and fulling mill was the first to be closed, and the gristmill gradually passed out of the picture. But Stinson did quite an extensive business in lumber and chair stock for several years and until the destruction of the entire plant, with all adjoining buildings, by fire in 1915, or about that date.

From first to last there were several mills on the South Branch and in Rowentown. Isaac Clifford had the first one on the stream; this mill did not cut a very great figure apparently.

At Rowentown was a sawmill operated by Joseph Boyd, later by B. W. Brown and then by Asa A. Brown. The Browns were in business in Rowentown for a long time.

The property passed finally to Pattee and Clark, and is now owned by the Parker and Young Co. Much pulpwood has been cut in recent years on the Parker and Young land, while but little of the lumber has been sawed.

In 1870 Joseph Brown had a mill on the Rowentown Brook, so called.

John Whitcher was lumbering in the south part of



the town more or less during the most of his life. He had a sawmill on the South Branch near the Dorchester line. His son, Ovando, was associated closely with his father in the lumber business, and appears to have managed it as a rule after Mr. Whitcher moved to the village. The Whitcher Mill was in operation as early as 1845; perhaps before then.

Another mill was built later on the South Branch by David Hardy. It was near the house now occupied by Walter Foster's family. This mill was owned after 1876 by Edward S. Chandler and later by William R. Park, Jr.

Benjamin Martin built a mill near what is known as the Martin place. He ground grain and sawed lumber here at this mill, the location of which is plainly to be seen at the present time, the remains of the dam and foundations being yet upon the spot.

After the burning of the old sawmill at the village, the firm of Knight and Crosby, bobbin manufacturers, rented a piece of land in the railroad yard; it was across the tracks and a little to the south of the station.

They built here a two-story bobbin mill, using steam power. This mill did a very good amount of business for about fifteen years, and furnished steady work for some ten or more men. Many carloads of

bobbins have gone from Wentworth to the textile centers of New England.

About the year 1870, Seth Savage built, on the location where the flood of 1856 had wrought havoc, a substantial gristmill, which did business until recently, so to speak. There was a shingle mill in connection with the gristmill. This was later sold to Elias M. Blodgett, who sold to Charles Merrill, passing later to his son, Joseph, and it was finally destroyed with all its contents by fire.

The falls at the village are now owned by the Boston and Maine Railroad. The cribwork dam has been replaced by a smaller one of cement. The fall is used to operate hydraulic rams which furnish water for the locomotives at the railroad station.

John Sanders, who was one of the last of his race to live in town, had at different times in his career, some ambitious mill project or other in his mind. At one time he started a mill on Ellsworth Hill; it was rather low-posted, so John decided to get crooked trees for beams to give him more head room. He was quite lame, but traveled for weeks in the woods hunting up trees with a rainbow curve. He did not succeed in finding enough crooked trees for his purpose, so the mill was never fully completed.

At another time John built a foundation for a new barn on Sanders Hill. The foundation was heavy and

solid enough for a brick block, a model of its kind, but the foundation was far as he ever got with the project. John was a mild-mannered, soft-spoken man who used no loud or strong language, but used to say "I vanny" when he wanted to be emphatic.

Although John's mills and barns never got built, it is not unlikely his day dreams came as near to being realities as do most of ours, the only difference being that while John was dreaming of construction, the rest of us dream of Utopia or something equally far off and unattainable. John may have the laugh on the rest of us after all, "I vanny," for some of his work is still in evidence and bids fair to endure for years to come.

### SOME OF THE TAVERNS AND TAVERN KEEPERS OF WENTWORTH

William Heath opened the first public house in Wentworth about the year 1783. This house stood on the Charles Cove place and about on the site of the present cider mill. It was a log structure and rather rudely built. It is not known how long Heath conducted it as a tavern, but doubtless for some three or four years.

The first town license for the sale of liquor was issued to Nathaniel White, March 11, 1793, for the

term of two months. Mr. White continued his tavern until 1795. In 1795 Lemuel Kezer opened a tavern upon what has since been known as the Charles Merrill place. This place was known for many years as the old Kezer stand. At that time it stood upon the main road going north towards Warren and Haverhill. It was for at least twenty-five years a popular public house. About the same time, viz., 1795, Major William White also opened a tavern. This was the house where Harry Turner now lives and, like Kezer's place just mentioned, was then located on the main road through the town. Major White kept tavern in this place until his death in 1805. In the year 1800 a public house was opened by Thomas Savage on what in later years has been known as the Joshua Foster place. Business was continued here by Nicholas Chase, who succeeded Savage. Chase remained until about 1808.

In 1804 Dr. Benjamin Knowlton commenced the tavern in the village. This building was the beginning of the main village tavern, in later years conducted for a long time by Eleazer Smith. Knowlton did business here until 1813. The successors of Knowlton at this stand are as follows:

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Joseph Bean.....     | 1813-1816 |
| Simond Bailey.....   | 1816-1822 |
| William Merrill..... | 1822-1824 |



|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| John Page.....             | 1824-1826 |
| Daniel Smith.....          | 1826-1829 |
| Lull & Atherton.....       | 1829-1831 |
| Jedediah C. Woodbury.....  | 1831-1834 |
| Benjamin Little.....       | 1834-1836 |
| John Jewell.....           | 1836-1837 |
| William White.....         | 1837-1840 |
| Jedediah C. Woodbury.....  | 1840-1843 |
| Jonathan L. Prescott ..... | 1843-1846 |
| John Quimby.....           | 1846-1848 |
| Asa Dolloff.....           | 1848-1851 |
| Augus F. Taylor.....       | 1851-1852 |
| Asa P. Tenney.....         | 1852-1853 |
| Francis F. Davison.....    | 1853-1856 |
| Eleazer Smith.....         | 1856-1888 |

It might be proper at this time to describe briefly the appearance of what was for a period of about seventy-five years the principal tavern in the town and a well-known resort for all travelers. It stood on the Main Street opposite the Common and was located on the Webster Memorial Library lot. The first building was erected, as has been stated by Dr. Benjamin Knowlton, in 1804. This building was of moderate size and only one story in height. At later periods additions were made, so that finally it was two stories in height with a portico in front supported by stone posts. The building was amply large enough to care for the business of the town. A sizable livery stable was also maintained in connection with the hotel. A hall in the south end of the building was

used for many years for public purposes, and all town meetings for a long time were held in this hall. This building stood practically unchanged to outward appearances until destroyed by fire in the year 1890.

After the death of the venerable landlord, Eleazer Smith, the property was bought by Mrs. Charles Hall, who did not use it for hotel purposes. Mrs. Hall owned the building until it was burned in 1890, as has been narrated.

After the old village hotel was burned the town was without a public house until the Perrin Chase property was used to accommodate the traveling public, the barn across the way being used as a livery stable. Several parties in succession kept this hotel, a Mr. Sawyer, as well as Mr. French, also a Mr. Bruce being among the landlords in this house, as was also Alvah Whitcher, who ran for a time both the hotel and livery. This house was eventually sold to John A. Davis, who bought it for a residence. Mr. Davis owned and occupied the place until the great fire of 1921, when it, with most of the nearby buildings, was burned.

The village being again without a hotel, Isaac N. Burnham with his wife, who was Carrie Ellsworth, bought the Alanson Haines place and fitted it up as a public house, and for many years kept summer boarders there, doing quite a business in that line as well

as with the traveling public. The Burnhams met with good success in the hotel, and ran it until failing health compelled Mrs. Burnham to relinquish the business. They were succeeded by Robert A. McLaughlin and he, in turn, by Mrs. Lettie Colburn.

In 1927 the property was bought by B. D. Kasack and G. T. Spolders, who have made many improvements to the interior of the house and its furnishings. It is now known as the Wentworth Hotel and enjoys a good reputation.

Mention should also be made of Mrs. Frank Briggs, who deserves to be spoken of in this connection; Mrs. Briggs has kept, for a long time, a boarding house and furnished meals in the so-called Parney Haines house near the bridge. She has also taken care of the traveling public and furnished them rooms so far as the capacity of the house admitted.

Other public houses have from time to time been kept in town, such as the Chapman Hotel on Rumney Plains, the Benjamin Woodbury Hotel on the Buffalo Road and the Dana Place at Baker Pond, for example. As the foregoing article does not purport to be exhaustive or precise, perhaps further mention might prove more tiresome than necessary, but it is hoped the article will suffice to convey to the reader an idea of the location and personnel of the taverns of our town from the beginning to the present time.

## CHAPTER V

### OF SOCIETIES — WEBSTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY — REGARDING CEMETERIES — OLD HOME DAY IN TOWN

#### SOME SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF INTEREST

In this incomplete article upon some of the different societies that have from time to time had a part in the life of the townspeople, mention will not be made of the churches, as they are spoken of elsewhere, but only of such fraternal and social orders and clubs as have had no direct connection with either church or military affairs.

The earliest society of which any record has been found was incorporated by act of the legislature of December 26, 1799.

By the terms of this act, Jonathan Eames, Esq., Benjamin Page, with others then living in Warren and Wentworth, were incorporated under the title of "The Warren and Wentworth Social Library." Beyond the fact that this society was formed as stated, not much can be said about it. Its name would indicate it was for social as well as for literary purposes.



The Wentworth Mechanic Association and the Wentworth Instrumental Music Band were also duly incorporated, and are mentioned in our narrative. It is a matter of regret that more cannot now be related of their activities.

In the year of 1857 there was chartered in the town a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, as follows:

On the 8th day of August, 1857, the M. W. Grand Master of New Hampshire, reposing in the Masonic integrity and ability of the petitioners, John Currier, S. W. Squires, Saul S. Stevens, David C. French, William Pomeroy, Stephen Aldrich and Jonathan E. Sargent, residing in and near the town of Wentworth, granted the dispensation, empowering and authorizing the above as charter members to form Moosehillock Lodge No. 63 of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, to be located at Wentworth. The following were appointed as the first officers: Jonathan E. Sargent, Worshipful Master; David C. French, Senior Warden; Saul S. Stevens, Junior Warden.

The first meeting was held in the office of Jonathan E. Sargent, on August 26, 1857, at 3 P.M., at which time by-laws were adopted, Stephen A. Aldrich was chosen secretary, John Currier, treasurer, S. W. Squires, S. D., William Pomeroy, J. D.

At this time, Uriah Colburn of Wentworth and Jabez Youngman of Dorchester were admitted as

members of the lodge, free of charge. At the next meeting, on September 2, nine petitions for membership were presented, and at the next regular meeting the petitioners were all voted on and elected.

The lodge met for many years in a hall located in the second story of the wing of the store building of John A. Davis. This wing extended towards the so-called Perrin Chase house some fifty feet. The hall was not large, but cosy and comfortable. Many now living received in this hall their first instructions relating to the history, work and aspirations of the craft.

The lodge was in existence in Wentworth for fifty years. The last meeting there was held on May 2, 1907. The lodge then became inactive and at the Grand Lodge meeting held May 17, 1911, the charter was revoked.

On May 21, 1913, on the petition of twenty-one Masons, the Grand Lodge voted to restore the lodge at Warren, and on November 20, 1913, the grand officers, with suitable ceremonies, restored the old charter to Moosehillock Lodge No. 63, now located at Warren, N. H., since which date the history of the lodge would properly appertain to that town. It suffices to say, the lodge is still in existence and, we will hope, prospering.

The following served as masters of Moosehillock

Lodge during the years the lodge was located in Wentworth, with the dates of their service:

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Jonathan E. Sargent..... | 1857-1860 |
| Thomas J. Smith.....     | 1861-1865 |
| Mark L. Aiken.....       | 1866-1868 |
| Lorenzo W. Currier.....  | 1869      |
| Mark L. Aiken.....       | 1870-1873 |
| George P. Lund.....      | 1874      |
| David A. French.....     | 1875-1878 |
| William H. Davis.....    | 1879-1882 |
| Willard C. Eaton.....    | 1883-1888 |
| Fred C. Gleason.....     | 1889-1890 |
| William H. Davis.....    | 1891      |
| Albert M. Barber.....    | 1892-1893 |
| Henry W. Berry.....      | 1894-1895 |
| Frank D. Morey.....      | 1896      |
| William H. Davis.....    | 1897-1898 |
| John C. Davis.....       | 1899-1900 |
| Harry A. Whitcher.....   | 1901      |
| W. W. Johnson.....       | 1902-1903 |
| John B. Foster.....      | 1904      |
| Archie A. Head.....      | 1905      |

Fred C. Gleason served as the first master after the restoration of the charter in 1913 at Warren.

During the year of 1875 and the next year, there was much interest felt among many of the townspeople in regard to the promotion of the cause of temperance; the movement was by no means new. Thirty years before this, active agitation looking towards "Temperance Reform," as it was called, was in progress and supported by many of the citizens.

The interest aroused by the efforts made in 1876 resulted in the formation of a Reform Club, and also a lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars. The Reform Club had their meetings at first in Stanyan's Hall. The attendance was good as a rule and much interest was manifested. Jonathan Stanyan, the owner and architect of the hall, was prominent at many of these meetings, and frequently led in the musical part of the entertainment. Among those who often spoke at the meetings can be mentioned Calvin T. Shute, Deacon Dean, Elias M. Blodgett, Frank Aiken and also, at times, Hiram Bishop. Uncle Jerry Blodgett was often present and at times would address the meeting. After meeting three or four years at Stanyan's Hall, the Reform Club moved to the Church Hall. By this time the club had become more of a debating society than anything else, and many discussions were held; some of them were formal and some were not, but all of them served to furnish entertainment and possibly, at times, instruction. The Reform Club lasted, as outlined, until about 1883.

The lodge of Good Templars outlived the Reform Club. The order met at first in the Church Hall; later they removed to Stanyan's Hall, holding their meetings in the dining room connected with the hall. Among those who were prominent and active in the



order can be mentioned Amos M. Cogswell, Mrs. Charlotte White, Mrs. Emeline Aiken, Edward G. Tenney and, from Ellsworth Hill, Arthur and Walter Kimball. The lodge met until about 1890 and then gave up their charter.

The order of Patrons of Husbandry, commonly known as the Grange, has for a long period of years been strong and influential in our state. After some preliminary work had been done, T. H. White of Harrisville, N. H., District Deputy, on February 10, 1893, organized at the Church Hall, Wentworth Grange No. 199, with the following as charter members:

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Walter E. Piper   | Wealthy W. Blodgett |
| Alice M. Piper    | Fred W. Blodgett    |
| Elias M. Blodgett | Herbert L. Blodgett |
| Hiram D. Morey    | Betsey H. Chase     |
| James B. Brown    | John A. Witcher     |
| Eva M. Brown      | Joseph Merrill      |
| Fred H. Downing   | Abbie Parker        |
| Josie M. Davis    | Marion R. Eaton     |
| John W. Lyon      | Charles Merrill     |
| Thomas Huckins    | William H. Rollins  |
| Mertie Huckins    | Lutie Rollins       |
| Lena B. Huckins   | Annie A. Libbey     |
| Flora F. Corliss  | Cyrus Downing       |
| Mary E. Witcher   | Susan Downing       |
| Fred E. Libbey    | Frank D. Morey      |
| John A. Davis     | Harry M. Turner     |
| Emeline C. Aiken  | Alfred N. Heaton    |

The following is a list of those who have served as masters of the Grange, in the order of their election and also the years of their service:

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Walter E. Piper.....     | 1893-1894 |
| John B. Foster.....      | 1895      |
| Cyrus Downing.....       | 1896-1897 |
| Charles Merrill.....     | 1898      |
| C. Henry Merrill.....    | 1899      |
| J. Everett Foster.....   | 1900-1901 |
| John B. Foster.....      | 1902-1903 |
| Eugene C. Downing.....   | 1904-1905 |
| Joseph H. Merrill.....   | 1906      |
| J. Elmond Downing.....   | 1907-1908 |
| Charles H. Brown.....    | 1909-1910 |
| Cyrus Downing.....       | 1911      |
| Neal D. Johnson.....     | 1912-1913 |
| Jesse H. Gordon.....     | 1914-1915 |
| Charles D. Robinson..... | 1916      |
| Ralph A. Gove.....       | 1917-1918 |
| Frank A. Downing.....    | 1919-1921 |
| Elmer F. Brown.....      | 1922-1923 |
| Harry L. Goodwin.....    | 1924-1925 |
| Raymond E. Downing.....  | 1926      |
| Glenn F. Pease.....      | 1927-1929 |

The Grange has from the time of its organization had a membership large in proportion to the size of the town. It has been the leading social and fraternal society and has in the history of the town and the lives of the people for many years played an honorable, useful and important part.

The order had its meetings at the Church Hall until about 1905. The new town hall had now been built and the second story was made into a Grange hall, with anteroom, dining room and kitchen, complete. Here the Grange has held its meetings regularly up to the present time, and seems to be still going strong.

The Wentworth Women's Club is the latest addition to our list of societies. This club was organized in 1913 and federated in 1915. The club has a present membership of about twenty and meets on the second and fourth Wednesday each month, October to May.

The officers for the current year (1928) are: President, Mrs. Louise Janes; secretary, Mrs. Ethel Downing.

### WEBSTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Edward Kendall Webster was born in Rumney, N.H., April 10, 1811. He married Betsey, daughter of Deacon Johnson of Ellsworth Hill. The Johnsons were an able and substantial race of men and women, prominent in town affairs for a period of fifty years or more.

Kendall Webster, as he was usually called in town, lived for many years in the house on the Plains standing at the fork of the road leading from the state road by the school house to Atwell Hill. Here he died in

1879, and his wife in 1880, the place being still the property of the family.

Of the four children of Edward K. and Betsey J. Webster, it will be only necessary to speak here of two of their sons, Henry A., born February 3, 1839, at Plymouth, N. H., and George K., born July 16, 1849, at Wentworth.

Henry became in later years a citizen of New York, and George a resident of Massachusetts. Both were much more than ordinarily successful in large enterprises in their adopted states.

They did not, however, lose their interest in their old home town. With its welfare constantly in mind, they finally decided to donate to the town a public library, suitably endowed, the same to be in memory of their parents and to be known as the Webster Memorial Library. It is greatly to the credit of these generous and persevering men that their plan was successfully carried out. The library building is located on the main street and fronts the village Common.

The library grounds include the site of the old village hotel and the store building formerly owned for many years by Eaton and Davis, and is thus in the heart of the village.

The building itself is of stucco with natural field stone trimmings. It is ample in size, attractive in de-



sign and in every respect reflects credit upon its builders.

The following detailed description of the building is from the pamphlet issued at the time of dedication. It conveys to the reader a clear idea of the interior and its contents.

The building is fire-proof, 23 by 50 feet. It has a stone portico and arch entrance with cement steps from the sidewalk leading to a commodious hallway.

A stack room, a reading room and a ladies' retiring room lead off this hallway. The finish of the first floor is all in natural oak. The stack or book room has a capacity of 4,000 volumes, with ample opportunities for enlargement. A beautiful fireplace of field stone graces the reading room. Over the mantel of the fireplace is a panel in which has been placed photographs of the donors of the library as well as those of their parents. This room has a six-foot oak wainscoting.

The East Room of the library has been set apart and designated as a historical room. This room is provided with large glass cabinets. All the modern conveniences for the public and the librarian have been installed throughout the building. The basement is a gymnasium, and has, as well, a gallery floor. Retiring rooms are provided and shower baths have been installed. A tennis court and croquet lawn are pro-

vided upon the spacious grounds on the southerly side. The building has its own heating and water system. The latter is furnished from an artesian well by a pump worked automatically by electricity and carrying an average pressure of fifty pounds. Woodwork of the interior of the library is finished in dark oak. The structure was designed and built by the Allen, Hall Company, Architects and Builders, Boston; modern methods were employed in its construction from start to finish. There are electric lights, with concealed conduit wiring, a 500-gallon storage water tank, and hot and cold water summer and winter.

The donors have fitted out the book room with a thousand volumes, and the Cutter library system will be used. Miss Jennie Hall, a lady of culture, intellect, and a Wentworth native has been engaged as librarian, and Arista Eames will be janitor, having charge of the building and grounds. The view from the library is to the south, looking down Baker's River valley, and the large bay window, extending from the basement up to the eaves, affords a most excellent and picturesque view.

The library is open to the public daily during July, August and September, and three days of each week during the remaining months of the year.

The building was formally dedicated and presented to the people of the town on August 23, 1917.

There was a large attendance at the exercises and much interest was manifested, not only by the townspeople, but by many who came from other places to be present on the occasion.

The perfect weather of a late August afternoon added to the pleasure of all who participated.

The exercises at the dedication were as follows:

Starting at 2 o'clock Rev. F. C. Bradeen read an interesting paper on early history of the town, after which the principal address of the day was delivered by Col. Stephen S. Jewett of Laconia, followed by a brief address by Dr. William A. Shanklin, President of Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. Miss Deristhe Hoyt, with a few well-chosen remarks, for the people of Wentworth, presented George K. and Henry A. Webster each with a gold-mounted cane made from rock maple which grew on the old home farm. George K. Webster fittingly acknowledged the token and gave a message to the townspeople. A musical program was given by a delegation of young people from Camp Pemigewassett, under the direction of Joseph W. McLeod of Wentworth. A delegation of little folks from the Sunday School sang "The Star Spangled Banner," after which Dr. Shanklin offered an invocation.

The exercises were held in the open air in front of the library. Main Street was roped off and traffic sent around east of the Common.

The excellent address of Col. Stephen S. Jewett is of much historical interest, and follows with only a few omissions made necessary by the lack of space. It deserves attention inasmuch as it correctly represents the sentiments of those who were privileged to hear him on this well-remembered occasion. Colonel Jewett spoke in part as follows:

*Mr. President, Citizens of Wentworth, Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

It is indeed a distinguished honor which has been accorded to me by the invitation to speak to you on this occasion.

This assembly is an epoch of Wentworth which will have an important place in the history of the town as the years go by.

We have met in a beautiful and historic locality of the "Old Coos Country" to dedicate a structure erected by the munificence of two distinguished and loyal natives of the town of Wentworth for the use and benefit of its people.

Someone has said that New Hampshire is a good state to emigrate from, but as I look into your faces I know you will agree with my statement that it is a good state to return to. New Hampshire! How dear is the name to every native of the state. Wherever he may be and whatever his environment, the name brings back to him the place of his nativity and the scenes of his childhood. Its mountains piercing the clouds, its rivers singing the songs of industry, and its lakes reflecting "the smile of the Great Spirit," it is no wonder every loyal son cherishes its name and is proud that he can claim it as the place of his birth.

Few towns in New Hampshire can boast of a more charming location and a more honorable history than the town of Wentworth.

While its situation is not such as to make it a place for large business enterprises, yet to whomsoever is so fortunate as to become acquainted with the village of Wentworth it possesses attractions of mountain, meadow and stream which endear it



to the lover of the beautiful and at once creates a desire to tarry within its precincts.

Its location on either side of one of the historic streams of the state, Asquamchumauke, now known as Baker's River and near its confluence with Pond Brook, gives proof that the first settlers of the village well considered the site as an attractive one for a settlement. The great mountain Moosilauke in the near north stands sentinel over the valley.

Surely the village may well take the name of the river which flows through it, "The place of the mountain waters."

The history of the town dates back to the early days of our republic. Its charter bearing date November 1, 1766, regranted March 30, 1772, proves it to be one of the earliest chartered towns of the north country. It takes its name from a distinguished Provincial Governor, Benning Wentworth.

While the town was granted to John Page and fifty-nine others, it is not probable that many of the original proprietors, except two or three members of the Page family, ever came to settle in the town. It is said that a settlement was made in 1765, the year before the town charter, by Mr. Abel Davis.

In this immediate neighborhood, therefore, more than one hundred and fifty years ago, a settlement was started by the hardy pioneers of that period who braved the perils of the wilderness to make their homes and do their part in establishing a permanent settlement.

The history of this section of New Hampshire, early known as the "Coos Country," is replete with interest, showing the hardihood of the early settlers and their determination to hew their way to success in the work they had laid out for themselves to do.

The history of Baker's River is of absorbing interest and is well worth perusal by the student of the history of our state.

Its original name given by the Indians was Asquamchumauke, as I have before stated. It received its name of Baker's River from Lieut. Thomas Baker, an early explorer of the river.

In passing, it may be of interest to state the names of the

town grants in the neighborhood of Wentworth: Plymouth, July 15, 1763; Rumney, October 4, 1761, regranted March 18, 1767; Warren, July 14, 1763, regranted July 5, 1770; Dorchester, July 8, 1761, regranted November 21, 1761, and again May 1, 1772; Orford, September 25, 1761, renewed February 8, 1772.

Until the advent of the railroad, which took business away to centres more advantageously situated for manufacturing enterprises, the village had quite unusual prosperity for a north country settlement.

In the early days some parts of the village were quite different from the present; the village common was then the cemetery, and the main street went south of its present location and near the brook.

The great freshet of Pond Brook in the year 1856 did irreparable damage, from which the village never fully recovered.

While the town has lost some of its old-time activity and its population has decreased from 1,197 in 1850 to 595 in 1910, it has not deteriorated in the character of its citizenship and it still occupies a conspicuous place in the affairs of the county and state.

The village is still a beauty spot in our beloved state.

The history of the people of Wentworth has been one of good achievement. Its citizens have been patriotic and law-abiding. Natives of the town have performed conspicuous public service for the state and nation.

The time at my command will not permit me to enumerate the names and achievements of men of Wentworth who have won distinction and prominence in many lines of human endeavor; who have "acted well their part" in the upbuilding of this state and the nation as well. Suffice it to say that the list includes names familiar to all who are acquainted with the history of our state, men of talent and education, whose skill, enterprise and activity in various businesses and professions with integrity of character has brought credit to themselves and honor to their town and the state.

The occasion of this assembly this afternoon is by reason of the

fact that two brothers, one resident of Massachusetts and the other in New York, both natives of this town, each of whom has achieved success and distinction in great business enterprises, have not forgotten the town of their birth, but have kept its welfare constantly in mind and have come back to you today to present this beautiful memorial building, with its ample grounds and its library, for the use and benefit of the people of the town and its vicinity.

Every right-minded man cherishes in the inmost recesses of his heart an innate love for the place of his birth and a desire so far as lies within his power to promote its welfare and prosperity and the general uplift of its people along high lines of human endeavor. No matter where he may be located or what his environment may be, there comes back to him the scenes of his childhood, and love for his old home where he first saw the light, and a desire to be of assistance to the people of his home town.

Fortunate indeed is the town that can number among its natives men of high aims and lofty endeavors.

George K. and Henry A. Webster are natives of the town of Wentworth, the sons of Edward Kendall and Betsey Johnson Webster.

The family home was on the Plains, a short way above the village. Their early life was passed in this town, acquiring their education in the town schools and in an academy in an adjoining state. They were both industrious, doing such work as came to them to do. Each left his native town in early manhood to fight his way in the world. The departure of Henry preceded that of George.

The history of the business achievements of these two men, had I time to relate it, would surely be an incentive for right endeavor to every young man within the sound of my voice.

These brothers have long entertained the desire to erect in this village a memorial building in memory of their parents, to be used for a library and such educational purposes as are properly connected therewith for the perpetual use of the people of this community; thereby providing a constant source of enjoyment,



education and enlightenment for all who shall see fit to avail themselves of its privileges; and this beautiful building, with its contents of books, its gymnasium and the ample grounds surrounding the building is the consummation of their desire.

It is a pleasure and a privilege for us to be here this afternoon to assist in the ceremonies of dedication and pay our tribute of esteem and regard to the men whose generous-hearted kindness and unbounded liberality have caused this building to be erected for the purpose I have named.

Few towns in New Hampshire, certainly none of its size, can claim a more attractive building and a better selected library than that which is being presented for the use of the people of Wentworth this afternoon.

I can conceive of no greater benefit to the people of any community than to have the opportunities for education and enlightenment which a good library affords.

It is a constant source of enjoyment to those who are scholarly inclined.

"He that loveth a book will never want a faithful friend, a wholesome counselor, a cheerful companion and an effectual comforter."

It gives the people of the community opportunities which can be acquired in no other way. Constant association with good books establishes good character, encourages lofty aspirations, provides knowledge which no vicissitudes of fortune can take away. Character which is stimulated by the reading of good books is the sheet anchor of right living.

"Life is opportunity. The products of life are property and character. We know property is perishable; we know character is immortal."

To the citizens of Wentworth I offer my congratulations that you have had established in your village this library, and I feel sure you will agree with me that no greater gift for the benefit of your community could come to you.

This week in New Hampshire is known as Old Home Week, and this day as Old Home Day. It is particularly appropriate



that the dedication of this beautiful memorial should take place on a day which brings back to this and other towns of the state many whose various callings in life have taken them to abodes outside the state of their birth.

I bespeak, as I have before stated, for the residents of this village and community much enjoyment from this library that is opened today. May the structure long stand as a monument to the public spirit and generosity of its donors.

I know I voice the sentiment of every citizen of Wentworth when I express sincere gratitude to the great hearted men who have presented this library to the town.

The library building was uninjured in the great fire of 1921, and it is sincerely hoped will continue, for many years to come, to be an ornament and addition to the town.

## REGARDING CEMETERIES

Of the three cemeteries in town, the first to be established was the one on the East Side. At a meeting of the proprietors held at South Hampton in June, 1785, it was voted to donate to the settlers the plot of ground which now constitutes the East Side Cemetery for public use as a burying ground.

Here were buried the bodies of all who died in town previous to the year 1788, except those buried on private land.

After the establishment at the village of what was considered the main cemetery of the town, this cemetery on the East Side was used almost exclu-

sively by the families who have been so long and prominently identified with that portion of the town. Here lie buried many members of the Clifford, Stevens, Pillsbury, Currier, Kimball and Rollins families, as well as many others.

As there has been for thirty years room for only a few interments at the village, there has been more general use made of the cemetery on the East Side, until it is now nearly all allotted. There is an association in charge of the affairs of this, our oldest burying ground in the town, of which John P. Currier is the present head.

It has already been related how Phillips White in 1787 gave the land, which is now the village Common, for cemetery purposes. Burials were made here until the year 1812.

The first burial on this land was a child of John Aiken, Jr. The next was Samuel Wooster, in all probability. Here was buried John Aiken and Ephraim Page, the pioneers; Jonathan Eames, Esq.; William White, and doubtless many others.

By 1810 it had become clearly apparent to all that the location on the Common was not a suitable one, there being only a small amount of ground, and that in what was becoming the center of the village.

In 1812 the town bought from William Moore for forty dollars the land which constitutes the present

Village Cemetery. It was cleared off, fenced and made suitable for the use to which it was then dedicated. All expenses incurred in this work were, so far as any record exists, paid by the town.

Jona Eames, Jr., Ebenezer Gove and Benjamin Page were chosen a committee to attend to the removal of all bodies from the Common to the new cemetery, and did the work, it is believed, in 1814. Previous to this time the town had paid various persons for their services as "Saxton." In 1815 they paid Nathan Keith for such service by "giving him the grass that grew on the burying ground in that year." In 1813 the town "paid Johnathan Eames \$12.00 for stones for boundaries in burying ground." These are the stones that mark the different ranges and are numbered. They "paid Capt. Page for fencing the burying ground. \$19.00." In this connection it may be of interest to add that in 1802 the town had "paid William White for a paul cloth, \$20.00." A pall or "paul cloth" was then held to be a necessity and used at every burial service. In 1822 they "paid John Hoit Sexton, repairing grave yard and trimming pall cloth, \$3.25." These items of expense are quoted to show the cemetery was at first the town's property and maintained by the taxpayers.

Here in the village many members of the Gove, Eaton, Page, True, Hoyt, Johnson, Ellsworth, Kim-

ball, Eames, Aiken, Whipple, Stanyan, Clark, Jewett, Kezer, McQuesten, Sanders, Webster, Atwell, Blodgett, and numerous other representative families are buried. Soldiers in all the wars, and in many cases their wives also, lie here.

The cemetery cannot be enlarged, and is now filled nearly to capacity.

There is an endowment fund, the income from which is sufficient to care reasonably well for the grounds. At the present time the affairs of this cemetery are in the hands of an association who have full charge of all matters relating to its upkeep and maintenance, the town having long since retired from this field of usefulness.

The Village Cemetery Association, Inc., dates from 1898, and was first composed of Charles Turner, David Gove, John A. Davis, John P. Eaton and Frank Goodell. Charles Merrill soon was added to this number and also Harry M. Turner.

The third and last cemetery to be established in the town is the Foster Cemetery, located on the state road rather more than a mile from the Rumney line.

This cemetery is well and pleasingly located on the farm known as the Joshua Foster place. The farm was held by James Foster and his kindred for about one hundred years.

At its inception soon after the arrival of James



Foster, Sr., in town this appears to have been a burying ground for the Foster family. It in time was used by other families in the same neighborhood and, since about 1840, has been the principal cemetery for the residents in the south part of the town.

The families of Foster, Colburn, Brown, Clough, Whitcher, Rowen, Downing, and Breck, are largely represented in this burying ground, beside others which space will not allow us to enumerate.

About twenty years ago a handsome and substantial stone receiving tomb was built and donated to this cemetery by the descendants of Isaac Brown, one of the pioneers in the valley of the South Branch.

This cemetery has been enlarged from time to time. It is now used as the principal burying ground for the whole township, and bids fair to be henceforth the largest and most generally used of all our three cemeteries. Its affairs are now managed by an association.

It might be proper to add here that in 1849 the town voted to buy a hearse and build a hearse house, which was done. Up to this date, there is no reason to think a hearse had been in use. This old hearse house is the present tool house in the Village Cemetery, the present new hearse being kept in a house on the Town Hall lot.

## OLD HOME DAY

Several Old Home Day celebrations have been held in town from time to time, the last one being in 1927. The one of August 25, 1904, held in the afternoon and evening at the Town Hall was perhaps the most notable of these gatherings. The meeting was addressed by the Hon. Rufus Blodgett of New Jersey and Hon. Charles H. Turner of Washington, D. C.; both former townsmen, who, as members of the United States Senate and of Congress respectively, had gained much distinction. Both addresses were timely and eloquent, in every way appropriate and befitting the occasion.

A feature of the program of the afternoon was the reading by its author, Mary M. Currier, of her poem entitled, "Lines Written for Old Home Day." This poem was written and first read at the Old Home Day held August 20, 1903. It was re-read by request on this occasion. It well deserves a place in this work being a sincere and touching tribute, from the pen of a talented young writer, whose ability, character and devotion to the locality where she was born and raised were notable. Her death in later years in far-away Nebraska caused great regret among the people of her native town in which nearly her entire life was spent.

The verses are here reprinted in full:

## I

"Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,  
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."  
Be that home in a vale, on a plain, on a hill,  
By lakeside, or ocean, or murmuring rill,  
The heart will still long for the pleasures of yore,  
And yearn to revisit the old home once more;  
And among the old scenes, 'neath Heaven's blue dome,  
How soft falls the whisper, "There's no place like home."

## II

'Mid pleasures, though many a pleasure we've known,  
The pleasures of youth we have never outgrown.  
The pranks of our school days we laugh over yet;  
Our huskings and paring bees can we forget?  
And picnics and parties, what pleasure they gave  
To maids that were fair and youths that were brave,  
In the jolly old days when we cared not to roam  
Beyond the blue hills that encircled our home!

## III

'Mid palaces, beautiful though they may be,  
The cot of our forefathers still we can see.  
No temple is purer in lands far away  
Than the white village church where we gathered to pray;  
No college is fairer, whatever its plan,  
Than the schoolhouse low where our learning began;  
No castle can tell us a legend more sweet  
Than the old sugar camp in its maple retreat.

## IV

"Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,  
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."  
And what homes are happier, near or afar,  
Than these homes between Mt. Cube and Mt. Carr,

Where singing all summer its beautiful song  
 Our fair Baker's River goes winding along  
 Past emerald meadows of grass and of corn  
 That sparkle with dew in the light of the morn?

V

Good, sturdy old Wentworth with love and with pride  
 Has called back her children once more to her side.  
 She looks in your faces and to you would say,  
 "O children of mine that have wandered away,  
 Should riches and honors and pleasures allure  
 You again from the arms that would hold you secure,  
 'Mid pleasures and palaces though you may roam,  
 Forget not old Wentworth, for Wentworth is home!"



## CHAPTER VI

### SOME PHYSICAL FEATURES AND NATURAL ATTRACTIONS — FIRST FRAME HOUSE AND SOME OTHERS — OLD BRICK YARD

#### SOME OF THE TOWN'S PHYSICAL FEATURES AND NATURAL ATTRACTIONS

To properly describe and appraise the many scenic attractions abounding in all portions of the town is a task beyond the capacity of the writer.

In the language of Byron, "Their praise is hymned by loftier harps than mine."

The mountains and valleys, fields and forests, limpid brooks, rippling streams, cascades and waterfalls of Wentworth, have evoked words of praise even from the unwilling.

Captain Powers noted in his journal the existence "of a considerable quantity of high mountains" in the town.

Our good Captain was amply justified in his opinion. When the mountains of Wentworth are mentioned, the mind of any familiar with the town and its scenery will naturally recall, first, the imposing mountain in the easterly portion of the town known in



BAKER'S RIVER VALLEY, LOOKING NORTH FROM THE VILLAGE, MOOSILAUKA IN THE DISTANCE



all the region roundabout and on all state maps as Carr's Mountain.

This is, properly speaking, not a mountain but a mountain range. The Carr Range would describe it much more accurately.

This range stands like a great wall on a large part of the easterly border of the town. Many traditions in regard to the origin of the name exist. Unfortunately for the historian, no two of these accounts agree. In the opinion of the writer, the legendary Mr. Carr, whose name is now firmly attached to the mountain, existed mostly in the imagination of those who could assign no better reason for this name which, for time out of mind, has been in existence.

Just who the fortunate, or possibly unfortunate, Mr. Carr was, and why his name is connected with the mountain, is not certainly known. As a mystery it ranks with the unsolved query of "Who struck Billy Patterson?"

It is of local interest to note that among the older people of Wentworth the mountain was frequently spoken of as King's Throne. It was generally alluded to as such by the people of the village for a long time. This name seems to be now falling into disuse but is still occasionally heard.

Carr's Mountain ranks in height above most of what we may call the secondary class of mountains in



the state. The height, given in Hitchcock's Geology as 3,522 feet, places it above Cardigan, Kearsarge or Monadnock.\* The mountain is extremely rugged and broken in surface, as any who may have attempted to climb it will testify. The towns of Warren, Wentworth, Rumney and Ellsworth meet and corner at a point on the easterly slope of the mountain not very far from the top. The highest point or apex of the mountain and of the entire range is in Wentworth. No road or even a well-defined and practicable path to the summit exists at the present time.

The slopes of the mountain were originally covered with a dense growth of spruce, even to and over the very top. The trees upon the top were short and stunted. Forest fires have raged on this mountain at different times, the one in 1854 being perhaps the grandest and most devastating. At that time the roar of the flames was heard for miles.

It is of record that fine print was read on the banks of Baker's River at midnight, by the lurid light of the forest fires on the summit of Mt. Carr.†

There was another extensive fire about 1874, which burned over most of what can be called the southerly slope.

These fires had at least one compensation for the

\* Cardigan, 3,156; Kearsarge, 2,943; Monadnock, 3,186; Cube, 2,927. *Ibid.*

† William Little.

boys at any rate. They were followed by abundant crops of large luscious blueberries. These berries grew in profusion over all portions of the burned area. They were common property, free to all who wished to go and pick. People came from surrounding towns at times to get some of the berries. Beaten paths were worn in places on the slopes of the mountain at this period by the feet of the blueberry pickers. The bears were also greatly attracted by the profusion of berries and assisted materially in harvesting the crop.

The bears had, too, a way of tearing the rotting logs, stumps and windfalls to pieces, eating greedily, by way of relish, of the worms and ants found in the rotten wood. The voice of the bears as they "hollered" on the mountain during the autumnal nights was a familiar but awesome sound. It was a real thriller for the children who lived in the vicinity. Possibly it kept them indoors at times.

The slopes of the mountain are now green, with a small scrubby growth of spruce which has choked out the blueberries. This marks the beginning of another cycle of forest growth. Lumbering operations have been in order on the various slopes of the range for a hundred years or more. Some of the ground has been cut over three or four times, and the work still goes on. The bears and deer still frequent the woods and claim the wilderness yet as their

own. Quite a portion of the western slope of the mountain was never surveyed, but remains now, as it has always been, unlotted land.

No part of Mt. Cube proper is in Wentworth, but the southerly extension of this mountain, the high wooded ridge known as the Black Hills, rises imposingly in the westerly part of the town. Ellsworth Hill forms a sort of stepping stone to the Black Hill region.

Rowentown lies in a well-defined basin in the southwest corner of the town and almost in the shadow of Smart's Mountain. This mountain, like Mt. Carr, is located in four towns: Wentworth, Orford, Dorchester and Lyme can each claim a share, as they corner on it, at a point not far from its summit. The most of the crest of the mountain is probably in Dorchester. Town Line Pond is located well up on the slope, and, as its name would indicate, is on the town line of Wentworth and Dorchester. Fishermen resort to this pond at times, but no one else ever goes there, so far as the writer is aware, except possibly an occasional hunter or trapper. Town Line Pond is oval in shape with rocky shores, for the most part, and is nearly half a mile in its longest diameter.

The only one of the ponds in town that is of importance commercially at the present time is the one above Brown's Mill site, known on the maps as the

Lower Baker Pond. It is over a mile in length and irregular in outline. The town of Orford extends a short distance over the upper end of this pond, the Wentworth-Orford town line crossing it quite near the westerly end. The land adjoining the shores of this pond is now largely owned by the proprietors of Camp Pemigewasset, a large summer camp for boys. This camp is well conducted, popular and apparently prosperous. The camp buildings are on the side back from the road in the shadow of the high steep hill that rises abruptly from the shore. This camp, with a summer population of one hundred and twenty-five or more, is a substantial addition to the resources of our town.

Waterfalls and cascades are almost too numerous to mention. The most imposing one of these is naturally the falls in Baker's River at the village. The Pond Brook for much of its course is almost a succession of falls and rapids. The South Branch and the Rocky Branch in the south part of the town both abound in falls that in a less favored locality would become famed for their beauty and scenic qualities.

The falls on the Ellsworth Hill Brook, usually known as Gove's Falls, have attracted much attention. Here are, too, many deep potholes, worn in the solid rock by the action of the water during the past countless years.



Speaking of potholes, there is a locality in town down the Buffalo Road less than half a mile from the Rumney line where the action of running water on solid rock can be studied to good advantage. Curiously enough, these potholes and caverns are on the top and sides of a high ledge with no water in sight. One pothole is four feet in diameter at the top and some six feet deep, circular and tapering almost to a point at the bottom, a splendid specimen of its kind. The query naturally arises, From whence came the water that made in a solid ledge such visible and extensive potholes and caverns? Is it possible Baker's River once ran over this ledge? Possibly this stream may have been formed by the melting glaciers that once filled the valley.

Moosilauke Mountain does not belong to our town or, in fact, to any one town. It is true, however, that some of the finest views of this imposing mountain are those from Wentworth. The Concord and Montreal Railroad included in their tasty booklet showing the scenery of our state, a view of Moosilauke from Wentworth station and another view entitled "Between Wentworth and West Rumney," showing the Carr Range as it looked from a point about where the railroad enters Wentworth from Rumney. A beautiful view of the Carr Range is the one from the state road near the Foster Cemetery. Another good

view point is from the state road above the village. This latter view is perhaps the best one of the upper portion of Carr's Mountain and includes also the Eames Mountain and the Currier Mountain in the foreground.

There is a splendid view of the mountains and valley from Sanders Hill near the old schoolhouse. This view point is famous in its way and greatly admired.

In Volume III, Hitchcock's Geology, page 270, is a picture showing "The Great Rock of Wentworth." This and many other great boulders, relics of the ice age, may be found in town. There is a large well-rounded boulder on the side of the Buffalo Road about half a mile south of the village; it stands so that it forms a part of the roadside fence.

It would be almost a pity to close this chapter and fail to mention the steep rocky hill lying in the center of the valley, hardly a half mile south of the village and almost directly in front of Charles H. Brown's house.

This hill, known often as Pickett's Hill, because it was a favorite resort of the Rev. Charles Pickett during his pastorate in town, is also frequently spoken of as Gove's Ledge.

From the top of this hill the view includes the whole sweep of the valley. The mountains on every

hand rise majestically, forming a vast amphitheater for which Pickett's Hill provides an excellent grandstand. The village is nestled at the foot of the hill in full view.

The scene taken as a whole is wonderfully picturesque and inspiring. Probably it would be hard to find another place where so slight an elevation would yield so extensive and charming a view as is this outlook from the top of Pickett's Hill.

The scenic features of the town as a whole compare very favorably with those of other towns in this region. The high mountains, deep valleys, green meadows and crystal streams of our town have been admired and praised by tourists, travelers and nature lovers for generations. One enthusiast, writing three quarters of a century ago of the valley of Baker's River, speaks as follows:

"This river in its ceaseless meandering; the beautiful meadows on its banks; the uplands gracefully sloping from the borders of the intervale to the mountain sides; the unbroken mountain chain on either side, the great variety of mountain tops, now higher, now lower, now covered with a luxuriant growth of forest trees, now a barren ledge; the well-cultivated farms all along the river bottoms and on the hill and mountain sides, having good and in numerous instances, neat and tasteful dwellings, the fields, now yielding their generous burdens to the scythe and cradle, or promising a rich autumnal harvest to repay the toils of the husbandman, — all present to the eye of the traveler a view delightful and exhilarating."

## THE FIRST FRAME HOUSE AND SOME OTHERS

The first frame house in town was built at a very early date, and deserves mention.

In the year 1772 Phillips White, who was a sort of a rich uncle for the early settlers, decided to build in the town a house for his own account. It does not appear he expected to live in it himself, but it was to be kept for the use of the families then moving into the town, in order that they might have a place to live in until they could put up a cabin on their own land. He hired Capt. Reuben Whitcher as head architect and general superintendent. Captain Whitcher lived then in Chester, and this appears to have been his first trip to the town where nearly all his subsequent life was spent, becoming there the founder of a family that has endured until the present time. This house built by Captain Whitcher for Phillips White originally stood near the railroad bridge on a little terrace lying to the east of the track. A part of the ground on which it stood was washed away in the flood of November, 1927. Some of the foundation stones of this house were washed out at this time and slid down the banks, where a few of them can still be seen. It is very doubtful if many who now do see these stones know anything of their interesting history.

The house itself was peculiar in plan and appear-



ance; it was about 20 x 28 feet square and two stories high. Thus it was in the language of a woman who often saw it, "All tall and no big" (Mrs. Temperence Clifford). The frame was hewed from small pines; all joists, studding and braces were of red oak and split from the log. The boards came, no doubt, from Hackett's Mill on the Pond Brook. The building was never clapboarded, but the cracks were battened. There was never any lathing or plaster; very few nails were used; the floor boards were pinned down with wooden pins; the doors hung on wooden hinges and fastened with a wooden latch. This house was then on the main path or trail through the town. It stood on this site for some fifty years or more. It was then cut down to one story and moved to the brick yard lot, and was then called the old brick yard house. The Rowen's and others working in the brick yard used this house until about 1860, when it fell into decay. After being moved the house was lined with brick as a helper to keep out the cold. The building has now utterly disappeared. The cellar hole can still be easily found near the top of the brick yard hill.

The oldest building in town at the present time is no doubt the two-story house in the village known as the Page house and now owned by Mrs. Sutherland. This house has been somewhat rebuilt at times and is probably a good deal changed in both outward and

inward plan and appearance. This building dates from about 1790 and was built by the Page family.

The oldest house in town today in practically its original exterior condition is the house in the hollow built about 1794 by William White for his own use and now owned and occupied by Harry Turner. This house has its original chimney with three fireplaces, all laid in clay mortar. It was never painted outside, and the original clapboards, split from old growth pine and shaved, are still in evidence. Some of these clapboards reach above the chamber windows clear across the gable. The windows had seven-by-nine-inch panes of glass. The house was probably at the time it was built the most pretentious one in town, and used as a hotel by Mr. White. The present ell and woodshed were not a part of the original buildings.

The second two-story house to be built was the old Stevens house on the East Side, where Lois Stevens lived at the time of her death. This house was built around 1788.

The next one was the Page house in the village previously described. Aside from the Page house, there is no reason to think there is now a house standing in the village built before 1810. One of the best preserved of the older houses is the Haines house near the bridge, now owned by Mrs. Briggs.

This house has some fine panel work and fancy

casings and stair rail, all made by hand, a tribute to the ingenuity and patience of the workmen who did it.

The Doctor Whipple house was built about 1810 or soon thereafter.

The only brick house ever in the village was the Alanson Haines house, which now forms the front of the Wentworth Hotel, the wooden ells or wings of this house were built by Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Burnham when they were keeping boarders there. The red house at Gove's, the farmhouse of Charles H. Brown and Eugene Brown's house are some of the older houses still in use. The two latter places were built by the Aikens. The house now owned by Mrs. Max Whitcher was formerly the home of Jonathan Eames and was at first of one story, painted red with white trimmings. This place and most of the adjoining land was owned by the Eames family for more than sixty years. During all this period the race of Eames was counted as being among the most substantial and best educated of the town's inhabitants.

The house on the state road now owned by Frank Downing was built about one hundred years ago by Capt. Uriah Colburn and was the original home in town of the Colburn family. The fine house on the Dufour farm was built about 1860 by the Smarts for their own use and was the Smart homestead for at least fifty years, perhaps more.

The reader may perhaps like to know who were some of the carpenters who framed, built and finished all these buildings. No one can say precisely who built them all, but it is easy to mention several families who were famous locally as carpenters and woodworkers. Several of the Clark race were in this class of workmen. Daniel Clark, Jr., was one of the charter members of the Wentworth Mechanics Society chartered in 1832. Newell Stanyan, Sr., was a carpenter, as was his son Newell, Jr. Another of his sons, Jonathan, was a mechanic of marked ability. He had a good knowledge of machinery and was for years the leading millwright of the whole region. He built sawmills, gristmills and factory buildings, and installed the machinery in several cases. His services in this line were in great demand in Wentworth and vicinity for many years. Others of the Stanyan race were very well known carpenters and mechanics.

After all has been said, the family in town who from first to last have been more distinguished as workers in wood than any other, is the Gove family.

Capt. Ebenezer Gove, the pioneer, did woodworking of all kinds; some articles of furniture made by him are still in existence, and their workmanship does him credit.

Many of his descendants followed for more or less of their lives the trade of a carpenter. The Gove family



seemed to be able to produce in the little old shop, still standing on the Charles Gove place, any kind of a product made of wood. They were sash, door and blind makers, coopers, wheelwrights and cabinet-makers. It is literally true that every article made of wood used by the inhabitants of the town, from the time they were infants in the cradle to the coffins that were a part of the last scene of all, were produced in that old shop, both of the articles above mentioned being included. They made the old wooden cider mills, of which there were several in town, including one of their own. The large wooden screws of the cider press were home made and threads cut by hand. Many buildings designed and built by William Gove, usually called "Uncle Bill," are still standing in various parts of the town.

John F. Stevens did much carpenter work and built for himself the house in the upper part of the village now owned by Thomas Huckins.

Arthur L. Kimball worked with the Goves on many buildings. He was nicknamed "Cooper Kimball" because he produced many sap buckets and other coopered articles. Several houses built by the "Cooper" are now standing, among them being the substantial two-story house on the Plummer farm, built in 1879.

Jonathan Stanyan was the architect and master

workman of the Elmer Brown house, built about 1877. Newell Stanyan, Jr., worked on many different buildings in town and also built at least two sets of buildings for himself.

The most pretentious house ever built in town was no doubt Judge Sargent's residence, which stood on the corner where the Buffalo Road begins, on the spot now occupied by the cottage house of Delbert R. Jessaman. This splendid two-story house and contents burned in February, 1868.

Another imposing house was the so-called Perrin Chase house in the village.

After Judge Sargent's house burned, the Chase house probably became the finest in town of its class. This house, later owned by John A. Davis, who with his family were living in it at the time, was burned in the great fire of 1921.

The fine old house near the upper end of the Common known as the Deacon Dean house was destroyed at the same time. This house was built around 1820, probably, and was the only three-story house ever built in Wentworth.

The house on Ellsworth Hill owned by Myron Downing is, as its appearance would indicate, one of the most ancient houses now standing in town. It was built probably around 1810 by one of the Ellsworth race.

The historic Jewett house at Brown's Mills, used by the Browns for a long time as a boarding house, is a typical square unpainted two-story building and about the only one of that type now standing in town. It is well over one hundred years old. In its day it was no doubt considered a model of its kind.

### OLD BRICK YARD

Before closing this chapter mention should be made of the old brick yard where the bricks were burned that entered so largely into the construction of these old houses. Great quantities of brick were used to build the numerous fireplaces and ovens, and the huge chimneys with two to four flues which were a part, and no small part either, of the early houses. More or less of the land in what is called the Buffalo Road district is underlaid with a deposit of excellent clay. The small brook which runs back of Harry Turner's buildings was called by the first settlers the Clay Brook, as it cut through more or less of these large clay beds on its way to the river.

As this was and is the largest and best clay deposit in the whole region, the town brick yard was naturally located on the banks of this brook and at the foot of the so-called Brick Yard Hill.

Here a brick-making industry was carried on from

the time settlement of the town fairly began until about the date of the close of the Civil War.

Bricks made and burned in this yard were carted to all portions of the town and into surrounding towns in many cases. This old brick yard was, in summer, a busy place. The Rowen family, also the Saunders race, were prominent for years as brick makers. The Rowens built a house, which still stands back in the fields from the Plummer place, so that they could live near their work. This house in later years became known as the Blodgett place and is now occupied by Alex Bowlan and his family.

One of the last men to carry on business at the brick yard was Josiah Norris, who then lived on the old Benjamin Woodbury farm, in later years the home of the late Mrs. Ezilda King.

Norris was perhaps the last man to burn a kiln of brick in Wentworth. The old brick yard lot was owned for many years by Joshua S. Blaisdell. After his death his heirs sold the property to Harry M. Turner, who still owns it. But the brick-making industry which flourished in the hollow for so many years is now no more, perhaps forever.



## CHAPTER VII

### WENTWORTH IN THE LEGISLATURE, STATE AND NATION — LIST OF SELECTMEN, 1779-1929— TOWN CLERKS — TOWN TREASURERS

#### WENTWORTH IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Fifth Provincial Congress convening at Exeter, Thursday, December 21, 1775, assumed the prerogatives of a legislature and adopted a temporary constitution which lasted until 1783. Under the provisions of this constitution the members of the legislature were elected for a term of one year, and convened on the third Wednesday of December.\*

Under the State Constitution which became operative in June, 1784, the members of the legislature were elected on the second Tuesday of March for the term of one year and met on the first Wednesday of June following, until and including the session of 1878.

Beginning with the session of 1879, the members were elected on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, for the term of two years, and met biennially on the first Wednesday of June follow-

\* Plymouth History.

ing, until and including the session of 1889. Since then, beginning with the session of 1891, the legislature has met biennially on the first Wednesday of January following the state elections.

Previous to the year 1805, the state had no established capitol. The legislature met, as agreed, at Portsmouth, Exeter, Dover or elsewhere; there was one session at least at Amherst and another at Hanover.

The first mention of the town of Wentworth being represented, is in the memorable year of 1776, when Israel Morey of Orford represented a class of six towns, one of which was Wentworth. During 1777, '78, '79, '80, the town does not appear to have been represented. But in 1782, Wentworth, Warren and Coventry were classed, and Major Enoch Page of Wentworth was declared elected. To Mr. Page, therefore, belongs the glory of having been the first resident of Wentworth to sit in the legislature, which that year had two sessions, one at Exeter and one at Concord. In 1783 Obadiah Clement of Warren was elected from the same class of towns. Mr. Clement was a leading citizen of Warren, and kept the first hotel in that town. Political honors were appreciated apparently then as now, for Mr. Clement assured his admiring constituents after his election that "he felt complete."

For the years 1784 to 1787 inclusive, Plymouth, Rumney and Wentworth were classed and the representatives were:

- 1784 — Joseph Senter of Plymouth
- 1785 — Abraham Burnham of Rumney
- 1786 — Absalom Peters of Wentworth
- 1787 — Francis Worcester of Plymouth

Beginning in 1788 and continuing until 1799, Orford and Wentworth were classed, with the following results:

- 1788 — William Simpson of Orford
- 1789 — No representative
- 1790 — Thomas Dame of Orford
- 1791 — William Simpson of Orford
- 1792 — Nathaniel White of Wentworth
- 1793 — William Simpson of Orford
- 1794 — Absalom Peters of Wentworth
- 1795 — Samuel Currier of Wentworth
- 1796 — Not represented
- 1797 — John Mann of Orford
- 1798 — Samuel Morey of Orford
- 1799 — Joseph Pratt of Orford

In the year of 1800, Rumney and Wentworth were classed permanently until the year 1816; the spirit of fair play appears to have prevailed in the selection of representative, as the honor went to Rumney one year and to Wentworth the next, as long as the arrangement of classing the towns together lasted. There is some evidence that classing Wentworth and

Orford, however, did not result in entire harmony, and the town was not represented at all at several sessions during that period.

The Wentworth and Rumney representatives were as follows:

- 1800 — William Preston of Rumney
- 1801 — William White of Wentworth
- 1802 — William Preston of Rumney
- 1803 — William White of Wentworth
- 1804 — Abraham Burnham of Rumney
- 1805 — William White of Wentworth
- 1806 — Abraham Burnham of Rumney
- 1807 — David Gibson, M.D., of Wentworth
- 1808 — Aaron Burnham of Rumney
- 1809 — David Gibson, M.D., of Wentworth
- 1810 — Samuel Burns of Rumney
- 1811 — David Gibson, M.D., of Wentworth
- 1812 — Samuel Burns of Rumney
- 1813 — William Moore of Wentworth
- 1814 — Samuel Burnham of Rumney
- 1815 — Caleb Keith, Esq., of Wentworth

In the year 1816, Wentworth for the first time enjoyed the privilege of electing a representative alone and unclassified with any other town, and Squire Caleb Keith was chosen to represent the town. From 1816, the town has been represented at every session, except in 1835 and 1846, until 1923, when the population, having fallen to less than 600, the minimum required, is now entitled to send a representative only a proportional part of the time.



The list from 1816 to 1929 is given below:

|                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1816 — Caleb Keith          | 1847 — John Whitcher      |
| 1817 — Caleb Keith          | 1848 — John Whitcher      |
| 1818 — Thomas Whipple, Jr.  | 1849 — F. C. Kezer        |
| 1819 — Thomas Whipple, Jr.  | 1850 — F. C. Kezer        |
| 1820 — Thomas Whipple, Jr.  | 1851 — J. Everett Sargent |
| 1821 — Caleb Keith          | 1852 — J. Everett Sargent |
| 1822 — Caleb Keith          | 1853 — J. Everett Sargent |
| 1823 — Caleb Keith          | (Mr. Sargent was          |
| 1824 — Caleb Keith          | Speaker of the            |
| 1825 — Johnathan Eames      | House, 1853.)             |
| 1826 — Johnathan Eames      | 1854 — Alonzo A. Whipple, |
| 1827 — Johnathan Eames      | M.D.                      |
| 1828 — Aaron Currier        | 1855 — Jesse Eaton        |
| 1829 — Aaron Currier        | 1856 — Alonzo A. Whipple, |
| 1830 — John T. Sanborn,     | M.D.                      |
| M.D.                        | 1857 — William Gove       |
| 1831 — Enoch Page, Jr.      | 1858 — William Gove       |
| 1832 — John T. Sanborn,     | 1859 — Elijah Rollins     |
| M.D.                        | 1860 — Elijah Rollins     |
| 1833 — Enoch Page, Jr.      | 1861 — Thomas J. Smith    |
| 1834 — Enoch Page, Jr.      | 1862 — Thomas J. Smith    |
| 1835 — Not on list          | 1863 — Thomas J. Smith    |
| 1836 — William Moore        | 1864 — Thomas J. Smith    |
| 1837 — William Moore        | 1865 — Thomas J. Smith    |
| 1838 — Luke Aiken           | 1866 — William H. Moore   |
| 1839 — Luke Aiken           | 1867 — William H. Moore   |
| 1840 — John F. A. Peabody   | 1868 — Joseph Savage      |
| 1841 — John F. A. Peabody   | 1869 — Joseph Savage      |
| 1842 — Wolcott Dana         | 1870 — Jeremiah Blodgett  |
| 1843 — Wolcott Dana         | 1871 — Jeremiah Blodgett  |
| 1844 — William D. McQuesten | 1872 — Jeremiah Blodgett  |
| 1845 — William D. McQuesten | 1873 — Samuel R. Burnham  |
| ten                         | 1874 — Samuel R. Burnham  |
| 1846 — None chosen          | 1875 — Samuel G. Currier  |

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1876 — Samuel G. Currier  | 1903 — Hiram Bowen       |
| 1877 — George Plummer     | 1905 — Joshua E. Foster  |
| 1878 — George Plummer     | 1907 — Walter S. Libbey  |
| 1879 — Lorenzo W. Currier | 1909 — David L. Goodwin  |
| 1881 — Alfred Page        | 1911 — Fred E. Libbey    |
| 1883 — John A. Davis      | 1913 — Albert L. Davis   |
| 1885 — William H. Davis   | 1915 — Ben. B. Foster    |
| 1887 — Benjamin M. Libbey | 1916 — Frank C. Bradeen, |
| 1889 — Samuel G. Currier  | D.D.                     |
| 1891 — Thomas Huckins     | 1919 — John C. Davis     |
| 1893 — Horatio C. Blood   | 1921 — Walter S. Libbey  |
| 1895 — Ezra C. Knight     | 1923 — Not represented   |
| 1897 — John B. Foster     | 1925 — George W. Gove    |
| 1899 — Harry M. Turner    | 1927 — Charles H. Brown  |
| 1901 — Isaac Crosby       | 1929 — Frank H. Colby    |

## SENATORS

The town has enjoyed the honor of having been represented in our State Senate as follows:

1854 — J. Everett Sargent

(Judge Sargent was elected President of the Senate at that session.)

1867 — Thomas J. Smith, Esq.

1868 — Thomas J. Smith, Esq.

In addition to members of the legislature, the following United States, state and county officials were residents of Wentworth at the time of their election or appointment:

## CONGRESSMAN

Thomas J. Whipple, M.D., 1821-1829

## GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL

Caleb Keith, Esq., 1825-1828

Jeremiah Blodgett, 1875 and 1877

## JUDGES

Major Enoch Page, Associate Justice, Court Common Pleas; appointed 1782; served several years.

J. Everett Sargent, Justice Supreme Court, 1859-1873; Chief Justice, 1873-1874

## COUNTY TREASURERS

Enoch Page, Jr., 1830-1835, and died in office

Franklin Eaton, 1876-78

## REGISTER OF DEEDS

Luke Aiken, 1847-1851

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER

John Currier

(Am unable to give date, but around 1850.)

## LIST OF SELECTMEN, 1779-1928

It has been a very difficult matter to secure the information given in this list.

Without the assistance of Dr. Hoyt's history, it would have been impossible.

The year given is in most cases the year of election, but it is possible there are a few exceptions and the year named may be the year the Board went out of office. The terms of selectmen, running from March to March, begin in one calendar year and end in another.

Also there is no way of knowing how the selectmen ranked except to follow the order as shown in the records; some elected, for instance, as second selectman, may appear in this list in the third place, or otherwise.

It is of record that all the men named have served on the Board as a Selectman.

A board of three selectmen to serve one year was annually elected until 1921; since then, by state law, one selectman to serve three years is elected at each annual meeting in March.

- 1779 — John Akin, Joseph Smith, Ephraim Page
- 1780 — John Akin, Enoch Page, Benjamin Weeks
- 1781 — John Akin, Enoch Page, Joseph Smith
- 1782 — Ebenezer Gove, Benjamin Weeks, Reuben Whitcher
- 1783 — John Akin, Benjamin Weeks, Experience Cross
- 1784 — John Akin, Samuel Worcester, Hugh McClellan
- 1785 — Benjamin Weeks, Joseph Smith, Absalom Peters
- 1786 — John Akin, Joseph Wooster, Benjamin Cooper
- 1787 — Absalom Peters, Daniel Clark, Joseph Cooper
- 1788 — Absalom Peters, Daniel Clark, Joseph Cooper
- 1789 — Absalom Peters, Daniel Clark, Joseph Cooper
- 1790 — John Akin, Ebenezer Gove, Peter Stevens
- 1791 — Nathaniel White, Daniel Clark, Joseph Kimball
- 1792 — Nathaniel White, Daniel Clark, Ebenezer Gove
- 1793 — Nathaniel White, Daniel Clark, Joseph Cooper
- 1794 — Absalom Peters, Benjamin Cotton, Aaron Currier
- 1795 — Benjamin Cotton, Lemuel Kezer, William White
- 1796 — Joseph Cooper, William White, Benjamin Cotton
- 1797 — Benjamin Page, Nicholas Chase, Moses True
- 1798 — Benjamin Page, Nicholas Chase, Absalom Peters
- 1799 — Benjamin Page, Winthrop True, Nicholas Chase



- 1800 — Joseph Kimball, Ebenezer Gove, William White
- 1801 — Benjamin Page, William White, James Eaton
- 1802 — Benjamin Cotton, John Page, William White
- 1803 — Winthrop True, Benjamin Cotton, Samuel McMurphy
- 1804 — Benjamin Page, Job Eaton, Aaron Jewett
- 1805 — David Gibson, Ebenezer Gove, Peter Stevens
- 1806 — Benjamin Page, Absalom Peters, Ebenezer Gove
- 1807 — Aaron Currier, Job Eaton, Benjamin Cotton
- 1808 — David Gibson, Aaron Jewett, Reuben Clifford
- 1809 — Benjamin Page, Aaron Currier, Johnathan McClellan
- 1810 — Aaron Currier, Johnathan McClellan, David Gibson
- 1811 — David Gibson, Ebenezer Gove, Benjamin Cotton
- 1812 — Johnathan McClellan, Benjamin Page, Winthrop True
- 1813 — Aaron Currier, Aaron Jewett, William Moore
- 1814 — William Moore, Aaron Jewett, Aaron Currier
- 1815 — Winthrop Gove, Benjamin Page, John Page
- 1816 — Thomas Whipple, Jr., Benjamin Page, John Page
- 1817 — Aaron Jewett, Aaron Currier, Thomas Whipple, Jr.
- 1818 — Thomas Whipple, Jr., John Page, George Hull
- 1819 — Uriah Colburn, Simeon Bayley, Thomas Whipple, Jr.
- 1820 — Simeon Bayley, Caleb Keith, Thomas Whipple, Jr.
- 1821 — Thomas Whipple, Enoch Page, Jr., Job Eaton
- 1822 — Jesse Eaton, Enoch Page, Jr., Simon Bayley
- 1823 — Simon Bayley, Jesse Eaton, Jr., Enoch Page, Jr.
- 1824 — Enoch Page, Jr., Jesse Eaton, Jr., Winthrop Gove
- 1825 — Aaron Jewett, Moses Eaton, 2nd, Matthias Haines
- 1826 — Moses Eaton, 2nd, William H. Moore, Caleb Keith
- 1827 — Jesse Eaton, Luke Aiken, Zechariah Clifford
- 1828 — Moses Eaton, 2nd, Luke Aiken, Zechariah Clifford
- 1829 — Luke Aiken, Winthrop Gove, Zechariah Clifford
- 1830 — Luke Aiken, Winthrop Gove, Zechariah Clifford
- 1831 — Luke Aiken, Winthrop Gove, Zechariah Clifford
- 1832 — Luke Aiken, John F. A. Peabody, Zechariah Clifford
- 1833 — Winthrop Gove, Daniel Merrill, Zechariah Clifford
- 1834 — Luke Aiken, Winthrop Gove, Wolcott Dana
- 1835 — Wolcott Dana, Winthrop Gove, John Goodspeed

- 1836 — Luke Aiken, John Goodspeed, Winthrop Gove  
 1837 — Luke Aiken, John Goodspeed, Winthrop Gove  
 1838 — John Goodspeed, William D. McQuesten, George G.  
           Page  
 1839 — John Goodspeed, William D. McQuesten, George G.  
           Page  
 1840 — Winthrop Gove, Wolcott Dana, James Smart  
 1841 — William Moore, Wolcott Dana, James Smart  
 1842 — William Moore, William Haines, Jr., Elijah Rollins  
 1843 — William Haines, Jr., Elijah Rollins, Zebina Page  
 1844 — Luke Aiken, Fayette C. Kezer, Zebina Page  
 1845 — Luke Aiken, Fayette C. Kezer, Newell Stanyan  
 1846 — Ferdinand C. Kezer, Newell Stanyan, John Whitcher  
 1847 — Ferdinand C. Kezer, Joseph Savage, Enoch Clark  
 1848 — Joseph Savage, Enoch Clark, Rufus Stevens  
 1849 — John Whitcher, Wolcott Dana, Cyrus Johnson  
 1850 — Rufus Stevens, Cyrus Johnson, Joseph Colburn  
 1851 — Joseph Colburn, O. S. Cole, Samuel G. Currier  
 1852 — John Whitcher, Joshua Foster, Jr., John Pillsbury  
 1853 — John Whitcher, Joshua Foster, Jr., John Pillsbury  
 1854 — Jesse Eaton, Ferdinand C. Kezer, Luther M. Bradbury  
 1855 — Ferdinand C. Kezer, Samuel G. Currier, Francis Davis  
 1856 — Ferdinand C. Kezer, William Haines, Jr., Joseph Boyd  
 1857 — Peter L. Hoyt, Enoch Clark, John F. A. Peabody  
 1858 — John F. A. Peabody, Enoch Clark, Josiah P. Brown  
 1859 — Samuel G. Currier, Josiah P. Brown, Ezra W. Cleasby  
 1860 — John Whitcher, Maynard W. Davis, John Foster  
 1861 — John Whitcher, Maynard W. Davis, John Foster  
 1862 — John Whitcher, John Foster, Lorenzo W. Currier  
 1863 — John Whitcher, John Foster, Lorenzo W. Currier  
 1864 — John Whitcher, Lorenzo W. Currier, Samuel B. Burn-  
           ham  
 1865 — John Whitcher, Lorenzo W. Currier, Samuel B. Burn-  
           ham  
 1866 — John Whitcher, Lorenzo W. Currier, Samuel B. Burn-  
           ham

- 1867 — Lorenzo W. Currier, Samuel B. Burnham, James Smart  
1868 — Maynard W. Davis, Ebenezer Gove, James Smart  
1869 — John Witcher, Ebenezer Gove, John L. Downing  
1870 — Lorenzo W. Currier, John L. Downing, William H. Moore  
1871 — Lorenzo W. Currier, William H. Moore, John L. Downing  
1872 — Lorenzo W. Currier, William H. Moore, John L. Downing  
1873 — Lorenzo W. Currier, Franklin Eaton, John L. Downing  
1874 — Franklin Eaton, John F. Stevens, Noah B. Foster  
1875 — Franklin Eaton, Noah B. Foster, George Plummer  
1876 — Franklin Eaton, Noah B. Foster, George Plummer  
1877 — William H. Moore, Lorenzo W. Currier, Samuel B. Burnham  
1878 — Lorenzo W. Currier, Samuel B. Burnham, Elias M. Blodgett  
1879 — Lorenzo W. Currier, Samuel B. Burnham, Elias M. Blodgett  
1880 — Amos M. Cogswell, Orlando Boyd, Noah B. Foster  
1881 — Amos M. Cogswell, Orlando Boyd, Benjamin M. Libbey  
1882 — William H. Moore, John L. Downing, Benjamin M. Libbey  
1883 — William H. Moore, John L. Downing, Benjamin M. Libbey  
1884 — William H. Moore, Elias M. Blodgett, Horatio C. Blood  
1885 — William H. Moore, John B. Foster, Horatio C. Blood  
1886 — Lorenzo W. Currier, John B. Foster, Jonathan S. Ford  
1887 — Lorenzo W. Currier, John E. Downing, Johnathan S. Ford  
1888 — Lorenzo W. Currier, John B. Foster, Johnathan S. Ford  
1889 — Horatio C. Blood, J. E. Downing, Charles Turner  
1890 — Charles Turner, John B. Foster, Cyrus Downing  
1891 — John B. Foster, Cyrus Downing, John B. Marston  
1892 — John B. Foster, Cyrus Downing, John D. Marston  
1893 — Horatio C. Blood, Fred E. Libbey, Joshua E. Foster



- 1894 — John B. Foster, J. E. Foster, Fred E. Libbey  
1895 — John B. Foster, J. E. Foster, George W. Boyd  
1896 — John B. Foster, J. E. Foster, George W. Boyd  
1897 — Horatio C. Blood, George W. Boyd, John W. Lyon  
1898 — John W. Lyon, George W. Boyd, Horatio C. Blood  
1899 — John W. Lyon, Horatio C. Blood, George W. Boyd  
1900 — John W. Lyon, George W. Boyd, William E. Libbey  
1901 — John B. Foster, William E. Libbey, John D. Marston  
1902 — John B. Foster, William E. Libbey, John D. Marston  
1903 — John B. Foster, Joshua E. Foster, Frank L. Whitcher  
1904 — Joshua E. Foster, Frank L. Whitcher, Horatio C. Blood  
1905 — Joshua E. Foster, Horatio C. Blood, David L. Goodwin  
1906 — Joshua E. Foster, Elias M. Blodgett, George W. Boyd  
1907 — John B. Foster, Elias M. Blodgett, Walter S. Libbey  
1908 — Harry A. Whitcher, Walter S. Libbey, Charles T. Gove  
1909 — Harry A. Whitcher, Walter S. Libbey, Charles T. Gove  
1910 — Charles T. Gove, Ben B. Foster, Walter W. Whitcher  
1911 — Charles T. Gove, Ben B. Foster, Walter W. Whitcher  
1912 — Walter W. Whitcher, Charles T. Gove, Ben B. Foster  
1913 — Elias M. Blodgett, F. A. Downing, Ben B. Foster  
1914 — Ben B. Foster, Elias M. Blodgett, Frank A. Downing  
1915 — Ben B. Foster, Fred E. Libbey, Frank A. Downing  
1916 — Ben B. Foster, Fred E. Libbey, Frank A. Downing  
1917 — Ben B. Foster, Fred E. Libbey, David L. Goodwin  
1918 — Ben B. Foster, Fred E. Libbey, Ralph A. Gove  
1919 — Ben B. Foster, Fred E. Libbey, Ralph A. Gove  
1920 — Ben B. Foster, Ralph A. Gove, Charles H. Brown  
1921 — Ben B. Foster, Charles T. Gove, Fred E. Libbey  
1922 — Fred E. Libbey, Charles T. Gove, Charles H. Brown  
1923 — Charles T. Gove, Fred E. Libbey, Charles H. Brown  
1924 — Fred E. Libbey, Charles H. Brown, C. Earl Gove  
1925 — Charles H. Brown, C. Earl Gove, Eugene C. Downing  
1926 — C. Earl Gove, Eugene C. Downing, Charles H. Brown  
1927 — Eugene C. Downing, Charles H. Brown, C. Earl Gove  
1928 — Charles H. Brown, C. Earl Gove, Clarence H. Pease



## TOWN CLERKS

The first officer to be chosen at a town meeting after a choice for moderator has been made, is a town clerk. Thus John Aikin was no doubt the first man ever elected in Wentworth to hold a town office.

The dates given are the years of election; the incumbent then chosen holding office until another clerk was elected on the date as shown.

There are no town clerk's records in existence now previous to March, 1890, an irreparable loss to the town.

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1779 — John Aiken          | 1824 — Enoch Page, Jr.     |
| (Served until 1787.)       | 1832 — Luke Aiken          |
| 1787 — Absalom Peters      | 1835 — William Moore       |
| 1788 — John Aiken          | 1841 — Luke Aiken          |
| 1789 — Nathaniel White     | 1844 — William Moore       |
| 1790 — John Aiken          | 1845 — Luke Aiken          |
| 1791 — Nathaniel White     | 1846 — William Moore       |
| 1794 — William White       | 1854 — James S. Smith      |
| 1795 — Enoch Page          | 1855 — Milo E. Haines      |
| 1800 — William White       | 1856 — Samuel G. Currier   |
| 1804 — Benjamin Page       | 1860 — Joshua S. Blaisdell |
| 1805 — Asher Smith         | 1861 — William H. Moore    |
| 1806 — Benjamin Page       | 1867 — Mark L. Aiken       |
| 1808 — John Clifford       | 1872 — William H. Davis *  |
| 1810 — Caleb Keith         | 1904 — Albert L. Davis     |
| 1812 — John Clifford       | (Served until 1903.)       |
| 1815 — Benjamin Page       | 1903 — David N. Eaton      |
| 1816 — Thomas Whipple, Jr. | 1904 — Albert L. Davis     |
| 1817 — Simon Bailey        | 1905 — Clarence H. Pease † |

\* Mr. Davis served continuously until 1903 and died in office: an excellent official. He was succeeded by his cousin, Albert L. Davis.

† Mr. Pease is the present incumbent.

## TOWN TREASURERS

In the matter of electing town treasurers, the practice of the different towns of New Hampshire has not by any means been uniform. A few towns from the date of their organization have annually elected a treasurer; such was not the custom in Wentworth, and the town did its business for more than thirty years without any treasurer. There was no particular reason why a treasurer was needed anyway; there was as a rule no money in the treasury and the annual tax warrants were committed to a constable for collection. The selectmen gave those who had claims against the town, orders on this constable for the amount of the several bills; if the constable had any money, he paid the bills; if not, a note was given for the amount due.

At the annual settlement the selectmen usually closed their account as follows: "And what remains in our hands is by way of notes," and made a list of the notes due to or from the town; there was not much actual cash in circulation.

In the year 1815 the town elected Aaron Currier, treasurer; he served fifteen years and charged \$2.00 a year for services; other treasurers have been as follows, in part:

1831 — Timothy Gile served two years at \$3.00 a year.

1833-1860 — Samuel Currier served much of the time and

charged \$2.50 a year salary, as a rule; one year he only charged \$1.50; possibly money was scarce at that time.

About 1850 it became the practice for the first selectman to act also as the treasurer for the town. This practice was apparently followed as a rule until 1878. It was then, by act of the legislature, made unlawful for a selectman to also hold the office of town treasurer.

In 1879 John A. Davis was elected treasurer and served continuously as such until 1911, a period of thirty-two years. In the discharge of his duties, he was at all times careful, efficient and honest, as the above record plainly shows.

Treasurers since 1911, with the date of their first election, have been as follows:

1912 — David N. Eaton

1914 — Allan F. Downing

(Mr. Downing died in office, in 1918.)

1919 — David N. Eaton

1923 — Fred W. Blodgett

1925 — Ardella F. Blodgett

(Mrs. Blodgett is the present incumbent.)

The above article on town treasurers is known to be incomplete. Samuel G. Currier served as treasurer at the time of the Civil War, but as there are no town records in existence covering that period, it is now impossible to give dates of his service. Mention of others is doubtless omitted. The most that can be

claimed is that the list, as a whole, conveys an idea of the way in which the town's money has been usually handled and the names of those who have most often been elected as town treasurer. The reader should bear in mind that from about 1850 to 1878 the first selectman was also treasurer for the town, as a general thing.



## CHAPTER VIII

TALES OF WOE, INCLUDING FLOODS AND WASHOUTS  
— FLOOD OF 1856 — SPOTTED FEVER, 1815 —  
COLD SEASON, 1816 — ARSON TROUBLES, 1861  
— HOMICIDES

### FLOODS AND WASHOUTS

Owing to the situation of the town in a deep and narrow valley, the history of the community is in part only to record one flood or freshet after another.

The steep mountain slopes on all sides of the town cause the water to run off rapidly after each rainfall.

The result has been that Baker's River, as well as many smaller streams, rise at times to almost unbelievable height. The slopes of Moosilauke, Carr's Mountain, Smart's Mountain and Mt. Cube, all contribute to swell the volume of water that, rushing down the valley, has more than once been the cause of great material damage.

The first mills in town all sooner or later were washed away, wholly or in part.

The first bridge across Baker's River was carried away by high water in 1785.

In 1814 and 1815, the Aiken Mills at the village

suffered greatly and were then entirely rebuilt, largely by Ezekiel Aiken. It was at about this time that the village bridge below the falls was either carried away or abandoned, and the bridge rebuilt above the falls and on its present location.

One year, around 1825, there is a rather unusual item entered in the town account.

The village hotel-keeper was allowed a substantial sum "for spirits furnished the men at work filling the great gulph, occasioned by the freshet."

This would look as though the men had to work in emergency at this time and were furnished stimulant for the occasion.

The most disastrous of all the many freshets was the memorable one of 1856, separately described. The greatest property loss ever suffered by the town was on this occasion; the part of the village lying along the Pond Brook was nearly ruined at this time.

It is, however, only fair to say that the freshet of 1856 was by no means the highest water ever known on Baker's River.

The water rose higher in 1869 and in 1927 than in 1856, and has, no doubt, at other times. The giving way of the dam at Baker's Ponds was the cause of the destruction in the valley of the Pond Brook in 1856. Baker's River above the falls was not as high on this occasion as it has been before and since.

The great freshet, as it was known to the last generation, occurred in October, 1869.

It was not local, being state-wide and general over a large territory. As a result of four days and nights heavy rain, all streams reached probably the highest point ever recorded up to that time.

The bridge to Sanders Hill floated off and lodged in the sharp bend of the river near Mr. Rolfe's field; small bridges everywhere went out. The South Branch made nearly a clean sweep in that portion of the town. It was at this time that the river first broke through the railroad cut south of the depot. This began the process of destruction at this point, which has been kept up since. The effect has been to turn many acres of the best intervale into a desert of sand and gravel.

The washouts at this point have probably cost the railroad, from first to last, as much as it cost to grade the original line through the town.

Another well remembered and, for the railroad, at least, serious freshet was in December, 1878. A warm south wind with heavy rain melted the snow, which was about a foot deep, in one night. As the ground was frozen, it absorbed but little of the resulting water. The river rose rapidly and to a great height, nearly as high as in 1869. There was another bad washout around the depot, carrying away some of the

track. A heavy freight train ran into this washout. The two engines, "Franconia" and "Moosilauke," were wrecked, as were several box cars, with their contents.

It took all winter to get the railroad in good repair again after this freshet, as there were bad washouts at several points on the line between Warren and West Rumney.

George W. Sherwell, a Wentworth boy, now dead, was fireman on the engine "Franconia" at the time of the wreck mentioned above. He wrote a full and interesting account of his experiences during the night of the accident, which were printed in Caswell's History of the B. C. & M. R. R.

During the winter, contractors in the railroad's employ built a new solid roadbed in place of the old trestle through the cut. They also built a dam or dyke at the upper end of the cut. This work stood for fifty years, when dyke, track and fill were hopelessly ruined in the flood of 1927.

The great flood of November 4, 1927, will be long remembered throughout Vermont and in northern New Hampshire. All previous records for high water were broken at this time, with results that will be set down in partial detail in this account.

The first three days of November were unusually warm, with showers of rain. But there was nothing to



indicate that the floodgates of Heaven were about to be opened in the North Country.

The rains of October and the showers of November had served, however, to saturate the soil and swell the streams.

The day of Thursday, November 3, was dark and lowering. Showers were frequent during the day, which was unseasonably warm.

As darkness fell on Thursday evening the rain increased, and by 9 o'clock was falling in torrents in all parts of the town. About seven inches of rain fell during the night, which was intensely dark; during the early part of the night, the residents of our town had no inkling of what was in store for them as well as many others. Northern Vermont was already inundated and the storm was passing off over northern New Hampshire.

The townspeople retired as usual; no one was abroad, and Baker's River at the village was over the road at the depot before anyone realized what was taking place. The water rose very rapidly and all the houses near the depot were in more or less danger; in some cases the occupants were removed with much difficulty and in such haste that they were only partly dressed.

At 4 A.M. the water was pouring down the state road past Evans' Garage and carrying away the

fill and abutment at the south end of the village bridge.

Only the fact that the water pouring past the depot and through the cut below soon made a deep channel between the passenger station and the railroad water tank, diverting a large volume of the flood water from the main river channel, saved the bridge from ruin.

At Eugene Downing's house the water level receded two feet in half an hour, as soon as the new channel was fairly opened.

Day broke on a scene of ruin and desolation; the flood waters of the river covered all the intervalles and low-lying sections adjoining. South of the village the valley appeared like a great lake; on its surface floated all manner of driftwood, parts of buildings, bridge timbers, planks, fence material and all kinds of drifting débris. Communication was cut off; all wires were down, and bridges on every road in town had been either swept away or undermined.

The first care of the townspeople was to save those in imminent peril.

Eugene Brown and wife, living on the old Milo Aiken place at the point below the village where the railroad crosses the state road, were cut off by the water which was all around them.

Charles Brown, with his horses and a heavy

dump cart, reached the house and carried them to a place of safety.

Zach Rolfe and wife were in still greater peril, the water being four feet deep in their house. Rolfe himself had been nearly drowned during the night in his own woodshed.

A rescue party, consisting of August King, Daniel Lary and one of the Clough boys from the Buffalo Road, attempted to reach the Rolfe's on a hastily constructed raft, but were themselves swept down the river for nearly a mile. Lary was washed off the raft, but saved his life by clinging for some hours to the bushes.

The others finally reached a pine tree which stands on the river bank near Harry Turner's upper sugar camp; they tied themselves into the top of this tree and were later rescued by parties from the west bank of the river. The Dufour family, occupying the Smart place, had their full share of peril, and their flock of about thirty sheep on the intervale was swept away.

As the waters receded, it became certain that the village bridge was undermined at the south end and unsafe for passage. The Sanders Hill bridge was gone, with most of the western abutment. The Thayer and Smart bridges across the south branch were both entirely destroyed, and many smaller bridges through-



BRIDGE STREET



*Photo by Mrs. Effie Robinson*

VIEW OF RAILROAD YARD AFTER FLOOD OF  
NOVEMBER, 1927





out the town. The bridge on the east side across Martin's Brook was wiped out and hurriedly replaced, in order to reopen a road to the north. The iron bridge in Warren across Baker's River, on the state road just above the town line, was carried away, cutting off travel north on that route; also the old covered wooden bridge at West Rumney was floated off more than a quarter of a mile and left standing square and plumb in a grove of trees; not a board was knocked off this bridge or even a shingle from its roof during the trip. The whole area around the depot was a scene of destruction, the freight station being destroyed, all tracks ruined and in some places entirely gone, together with the roadbed; gaping holes and piles of rock and gravel alone remained south of the station, the turntable was destroyed, telegraph lines also.

Harry Turner's lower sugar camp and contents were carried away in the night and several small buildings were shuffled around at different places.

The Boston and Maine railroad sustained the greatest property loss.

The State Highway Department appraised the damage to highways and bridges in town at \$28,000. Much of the cost of replacing the bridges has been borne by the state, but the damage done to the fields and intervalles caused by the washing away of the soil

and the deposit of sand and gravel is very heavy and without remedy to the owners.

Rumney, Warren, Haverhill, Bath, Lisbon and other towns further north suffered greatly, Bath sustaining the largest loss probably of any single town.

The ruin wrought in the state of Vermont by the flood of November 3, and 4, has become a matter of history, and it suffices here to say that a survey shows the property loss in Vermont alone exceeds \$25,000,000, while nearly one hundred people lost their lives as a result of the flood.

The property loss in New Hampshire was more than \$5,000,000, about half of which occurred within the limits of Grafton County. It was about a month after the flood before train service was resumed between Plymouth and Woodsville. Mails and supplies were transported on motor trucks over the state road and via the East Side route to Warren and beyond.

Official records show that over seven inches of water fell during Thursday and Thursday night. In some places the rainfall was nearly nine inches during this time.

## GREAT FLOOD AND WASHOUT OF 1856

On the 6th of August of this year occurred one of the most calamitous freshets which has ever visited

this region. For some weeks previous there had been little rain. A sharp drought prevailed. Streams and springs were very low. On Monday evening, August 4, it commenced raining and continued with but little intermission to Wednesday evening following. Part of the time, the water fell in torrents, the earth was utterly deluged. The unparalleled amount of nine and one-twelfth inches of rain fell in forty-eight hours. To the evening of the Saturday following, a period of five days, eleven and two-twelfths inches of rain fell. A larger amount of water, in the same space of time, I venture to say, had not occurred in the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

The greatest fall of water was to the westward, consequently the streams leading from that direction were very much more swollen than those from the east. As early as Wednesday noon, so much water was never seen in Mill Brook, while Baker's River was not so high as on many occasions before. A breach, at this time, had been made in the abutment of the bridge of this stream near the village. The water had also overflowed the dam of a large sawmill, erected above the village by Dustin F. Mellen, and formed a channel back of the mill, washing out the foundation of the building on the back side, leaving the mill so nearly balanced as to excite the expectations that it would every moment be carried away; but after all, it stood



out the freshet, but was so much damaged as hardly to warrant the expense of repairing.

But the greatest damage was still to come. During the whole afternoon the waters were threatening to run over the gristmill dam near the village, and were only restrained by the constant exertions of some eight or ten men by raising embankments of earth on the top of the dam. At about five o'clock it broke over all obstructions, commenced undermining towards the highway, threatening the immediate destruction of a barn and machine shop belonging to Henry Johnson, and the gristmill, clapboard and shingle mill owned by David Harris. It was then suspected by most that the little dam at the outlet of Baker's Ponds, about three miles above, had broken away and that the immense body of water, spread over these ponds to the depth of some eight feet, was being poured down the valley. This proved to be the fact. The rush of water was, indeed, frightful. In the course of half an hour a channel was formed by the highway, and Mr. Johnson's barn and gristmill and shop were entirely swept away. The machine shop of Johnson's remained, although much damaged.

On the opposite side of the highway, nearest the mill dam, stood a one-story dwelling house, newly painted and ornamented, with front yard, etc. A little beyond stood another one-story house, also painted.

The former was owned by Henry Johnson and the latter by David Harris. Attached to the Harris house by an ell was their barn. Near to these buildings and a little beyond towards the village was another house and barn owned by Jonathan Judkins. Towards these buildings the current was rapidly undermining, the channel was at least ten feet deep and filled with foaming water. As fast as possible, the furniture was removed, some in carriages, to a place of safety, but a large quantity to the field back of the houses. Mr. Johnson's house was cleared before it fell bodily over into the abyss of waters, being entirely broken to pieces in the fall. Soon after, the Harris house shared the same fate, and in less than two hours from the time that the water broke over the mill dam Mr. Judkins' house was also carried away. The channel of the stream had nearly broken straight, and it was hoped that the work of destruction was at an end and that the barns belonging to Harris and Judkins, in which some furniture and lumber had been carried, would be saved. But it shortly became evident that they were destined to be swept away, and before they could be half cleared they were hurled into the current. Mr. Harris lost a hog in the barn. By that time it was getting dark and the state of things indeed frightful. On the one side the roaring, sullen and angry waters were rapidly wearing away and undermining an em-

bankment of some twelve to twenty feet in width; the earth constantly caving off, and so dark as to make the waters invisible; not knowing with certainty how soon it would do to venture. The roaring, intermingled with that of huge rocks which were constantly being moved over the ledge below, resembled the roar of distant thunder.

A drizzling rain, while on the other hand there was a large amount of furniture which had been carried back from the houses in imminent danger of being washed away and which must be constantly watched and moved back as the treacherous bank neared it; and still other dwellings towards which the resistless gulf was fast moving, eager, as it were, to swallow them up. Altogether it seemed a dismal period; such a night of horror may it never fall to the lot of the people to witness.

A short distance below Mr. Johnson's house, stood a small machine shop and a two-story dwelling house and barn belonging to Enoch Clark. The shop was carried away in the forepart of the evening, the dwelling house was thoroughly cleared, and by midnight it had been undermined to about one-third of the length of the house. By that time the water had commenced receding and consequently the wearing away of the bank was not so rapid. Mr. Clark's house stood until the next morning and fell over the bank a complete

ruin, choking and glutting as it were, the fearful streams which had dwindled greatly from the amazing proportions of yesterday. Mr. Clark's barn was taken down and removed to a place of safety. It would not have been damaged had it remained. The loss of furniture was not very great, although, in the hurry of removal, it was somewhat damaged.

More than an acre from the depth of twelve to twenty feet with the bridge was carried away, leaving a vast chasm bare to the rocks and ledges and presenting a spectacle of desolation unparalleled in the history of this part of the state. The ruins have been visited by a vast quantity of people. For many miles around the intervale was covered with wreckage of buildings, and buried in many places to the depth of many feet with sand and rocks. Hardly a rod, from the falls to the river, of the original channel is now occupied by the stream. Above the mill dam the stream formed a new channel opposite the house of Ruth Stevens, threatening also to carry this away if not checked. No damage was done to the mills at the outlet of Baker's Ponds owned by Steven Aldrich, except the loss of the dam and the carrying out of the ponds some four or five hundred thousand feet of lumber in logs into the stream below, that can be reclaimed only by considerable expense. Large quantities of lumber were also carried off at Mellen Mill, as



also at the clapboard and shingle mill at the village. All the bridges on the south branch in the south part of the town were washed away. The individual loss of property in buildings, furniture, machinery and real estate cannot fall much, if any, below \$10,000, while the loss to the town in highways and bridges is very great.

In connection with the effects of the freshet is one thing worthy of particular note, namely: the certain fact that the ledges laid bare by the water at a depth of nearly, if not quite, twenty feet had at some previous time been washed by water in the same form and direction as now, the rocks being smooth and worn in grooves and hollows.

### SPOTTED FEVER EPIDEMIC

In 1815 this town, as well as most of New England, was visited with a very serious and fatal epidemic, called "spotted fever." It was not so fatal here as elsewhere in many places. It attacked all ages and conditions; its cause has ever remained a mystery, as is that of most other diseases of this class. It was generally thought to be contagious then, but this has

NOTE. — The above account of the disaster of 1856 was written by Dr. Hoyt, who was an eyewitness to the scene which he has described. His account is no doubt more realistic than any that could be written by anyone at this time. — G. F. P.

been denied by some physicians; it was undoubtedly contagious to the same degree as is typhoid fever. It was a fever of high congestion and in many instances fatal in a very short time from its commencement. Its attacks were sudden, with great coldness and prostration of the entire system. The face, neck and chest soon became discolored with dark purple spots, which speedily covered the whole body, being less, however, on the extremities. If reaction could be induced and warmth restored, generally a high fever followed, and the patient's chance of recovery was improved. The fever usually ran from ten to fourteen days and the convalescence was generally tardy and protracted. When death came, putrefication speedily followed, and the dead consequently had to be hurried to the grave. The epidemic was most severe and fatal during the winter and early spring, but mitigated as warm weather advanced.

It was a time of great mourning throughout this region; intense excitement prevailed throughout the community in regard to it and great fear to the minds of the time. It was obvious then, as it often has been since, that those who manifested the most fear were more often attacked, compared with those who fearlessly rendered the assistance to the sick and afflicted, which duty and humanity demands. While I would recommend to all not to withhold attention to the

sick, let the disease be what it may, I would also caution against needless exposure by too long and protracted attendance, especially avoiding loss of sleep and irregularity of meals. A few scattering cases of this fever occurred throughout the year and the early part of 1816 following. (Dr. Hoyt.)

### COLD SEASON OF 1816

After a year of great sickness, followed one of famine, almost. The seasons of some three or four years previous were colder and dryer than the average. The maximum of cold was reached in 1816. Snow fell during every month of the year in the village, except August, and then it was visible on the mountain tops, so it can truly be said that snow fell every month.

After delaying the sowing of grain to a late period in the spring the farmers proceeded, with coats buttoned up and mittens on, to their spring work; frequently they plowed and harrowed in the seeds when it snowed and the ground was frozen. I have heard my father relate that on the 6th of June, Election Day, he was planting corn; squalls of snow fell during the whole day; before night the ground was white and he was compelled to stop work. On the hills at this time snow fell to sufficient depth for the use of sleds and sleighs.

Corn came up, but it looked yellow and shaky. A killing frost in July nearly destroyed it. But very little was harvested except for fodder, and that of the very poorest quality. The crops of English grain were better, especially rye; wheat and oats suffered much, but were not an entire failure like corn. Potatoes were damaged, but not entirely cut off; fewer potatoes were planted than now; consequently it was not a crop so much to be depended upon.

As a consequence prices for all kinds of provisions were high, and the winter following was one of suffering to the poor. Bean porridge, barley and rye bread were the staples in most families, and lucky were those who could procure enough even of them. The spring following, 1817, the sun again imparted his usual warmth, after a vacation, as it were, waking up from a year's nap, and an abundant harvest rewarded the labors of the husbandman. Some crops fell short, however, from the scarcity of seeds in the spring. (Hoyt's History.)

### ARSON TROUBLE IN 1860-1861

In the year 1860, on the Buffalo Road, among others, the following families were living: Jabez Hall on the Plummer farm; William H. Moore on the Downing farm, now owned by Auguste King, while



Page Kimball lived in a set of buildings then standing on the corner south of the schoolhouse.

These families did not get on well at all with each other, being very unfriendly. The Halls believed and stated Kimball's people had frequently bewitched them, to their great damage and discomfort. Moore had suffered the loss of garden truck, crops from his field, and corn from his crib. He believed the Kimballs responsible for at least part of his trouble, and took no pains to conceal his opinion of the Kimballs. Moore's barn, filled with crops, was burned in the fall of 1860. It was commonly believed the fire was the act of an incendiary, and the neighbors became still further estranged while the bitterness increased.

An outbreak of arson and attempts at intimidation now followed. Notices printed with a charred stick on brown paper, later with pencil on white paper, were left at different places in the neighborhood. These notices threatened several parties with "Fire, Poison and Death," and were the cause of much alarm. Small fires were started frequently in the woods, and on the premises of the different parties where the threatening notices had been left.

By the time of what may perhaps be called the Reign of Terror, which lasted for about a year, had been brought to a close, the following buildings had been burned:

William Moore — one barn at the first fire, also a second barn nearly completed.

Jabez Hall — barn and sheds. The loss of this property fell upon Mr. George Plummer, who had just bought the place, but had not moved onto the farm. Mr. Plummer seems to have been the innocent bystander in this case, as he was then living in Hebron and had no part in the quarrel.

The schoolhouse in district No. 10.

A set of buildings owned by Judge Sargent, occupied by Page Kimball and his family. These buildings stood near the present Buffalo Road schoolhouse.

A full set of buildings on the Mountain Road, unoccupied and owned by Robert Eames.

The sugar camps of David M. Currier and William H. Moore, together with their contents.

A set of buildings in the village owned by Thomas J. Smith, Esq. Lawyer Smith was at the time of this fire counsel for some of the parties whose property had been burned.

The members of the Kimball family were arrested and put in jail, but it does not appear their case ever came to trial. While the Kimballs were in jail there was at least one set of buildings burned, together with several smaller fires. It was thus apparent the guilt was not confined to any one person, or even to any one family. The consensus of opinion for many years

has been that the Kimballs were responsible for a portion of these crimes, and that their guilt was shared by at least one other individual in the neighborhood known to be unfriendly to some of the parties whose property was destroyed.

The Kimball family, after their release from jail, did not return to town, but settled elsewhere. Jabez Hall had already sold his farm and soon moved away, which was probably a benefit to the community, and peace was at last restored.

The district in 1864 built a new schoolhouse on a different location, which is the present Buffalo School.

In this way the Red Terror came finally to an end, as has been related.

### MURDERERS' ROW

The people of Wentworth have always been, on the whole, a peaceable and law-abiding population. Crimes of violence, as well as offences against person or property, have happily been of rare occurrence. In spite of this, it is the unpleasant duty of the historian to record the fact that there has been in town three cases of murder, a brief account of which seems to be essential. These crimes will be mentioned in the order of their occurrence.

In the year of 1842 there was living on the northern

part of Ellsworth Hill, where the land slopes to meet the lower end of Baker's Pond, an elderly man named Asa Putney, a descendant of our Putney race. He appears to have been a thrifty, hard-working man who had acquired quite a lot of property. He had at this time a small place near the lower end of the pond, as well as the larger place further up the slope of the hill on which he lived. On the small place there was living at this time Samuel Hanscom and his wife, who were newcomers, having been in town less than two years. The land occupied by Hanscom is now owned by the proprietors of Camp Pemigewasset.

Troubles over business matters had arisen between Putney and his tenant. One morning Putney left home for the purpose of cutting some grass on the place occupied by Hanscom. As night fell he failed to return. His wife, the next day, caused a search to be made for her husband. His hat and scythe were found near the end of the bridge. Hanscom assisted in the search and was one of the little party who finally found Putney's body in the pond in rather shallow water, below and not very far from the bridge.

An examination of the body revealed the shocking fact that Putney's skull was fractured and his neck broken, and that he had died before the body was put into the water. It was clear that murder had been committed. As Mr. Putney was a partial cripple, it



seemed very unlikely that he could have been the attacking party. Suspicion pointed to Hanscom as being the murderer. After some delay he was arrested and finally placed on trial, but acquitted for lack of sufficient evidence. The Hanscom family soon after the trial left town, going to New York state.

#### ALLEGED CONFESSION OF SAMUEL HANSCOM AND WIFE

It has been commonly reported and by many believed that Hanscom, who did not live many years after Asa Putney's death, made a confession which purported to be a full and true account of the death of Asa Putney, and runs as follows:

On the morning of the murder, Putney went to the house occupied by the Hanscoms, and was soon involved in an angry argument with them, over the grass and other matters. He was finally beaten over the head with a heavy rolling pin wielded by Mrs. Hanscom, which fractured his skull and felled him to the ground, where he laid unconscious.

The Hanscoms then dragged him into a back room and left him there. Hanscom, now alarmed for his own safety, sought advice of one of the neighbors. This man, whose name will not be mentioned here, proved to be an evil counsellor. After coming to the house and looking Putney over, he advised them to

act upon the motto that "dead men tell no tales." After this conference, Hanscom, assisted by his benevolent neighbor, laid hold of Putney and by main strength with their bare hands twisted his head upon his shoulders until his neck was broken. They then waited until after dark and put the body in the pond. They left his scythe and hat near the bridge. This was done, of course, to give the impression he had fallen from the bridge and so came to his death. This was done as outlined, and what remains has been told.

Whether the above is true or not, the fact remains that the murder of Asa Putney was a sordid and brutal crime, whose perpetrators went unpunished.

#### MURDER OF JOSEPH M. EMERY

In the spring of 1890, the Concord and Montreal Railroad made extensive additions and improvements in town, one of which was to provide a better water supply for their engines. A crew of men from out of town was doing the work. A few of these men, including one Walter H. Shaw of Franklin, or that vicinity, were boarding at the house of James M. Emery in the outskirts of the village on the road to Ellsworth Hill.

The oldest of the three Emery children was Joseph M., a quiet, inoffensive boy of about twenty. "Mell" Emery, as he was always called in the village, was

small and undersized, short in stature, of rather delicate health and not considered able-bodied. He was fond of horses, was a good driver, and frequently employed at the livery stable kept by Alvah Whitcher, as an assistant.

The morning of May 26, 1890, was dark and rainy, too wet for outdoor work, and the crew of men doing the work for the railroad were idle. Shaw was away from his boarding place until late in the afternoon, and on his return it was clearly evident he had been drinking. At the house he was noisy and disturbing, becoming abusive to the other occupants. Finally Mr. Emery threw him out of the house, with more or less force. He left in a drunken rage, going over into the village.

"Mell" Emery, soon after this, went also to the village to do some errands, and called, as was his custom, at Whitcher's stable. He was standing in the stable door when Shaw happened to pass along the street. Shaw saw him and at once, without warning, attacked him with kicks and blows. "Mell" dropped to the floor. Doctor Durkee was on the street at the time. He went at once to the stable, but was powerless to help, and death very shortly ensued. A weak heart, no doubt, hastened the death of Emery. Shaw was taken into custody at once. He was later placed on trial, convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to

serve fifteen years in state prison. In prison his health began to fail, and it became apparent that his days were numbered. After serving about five years of his sentence Shaw was pardoned by Governor Busiel. He lived about a year or so after his release.

Much sympathy was always felt in town for the Emery family because of this senseless and unprovoked crime, committed by a drunken ruffian, during a moment of temporary frenzy.

The third, and let us hope the last, homicide in town also occurred in the village. In 1902, Henry Wilkins moved with his family, which consisted of his wife and two children, into town. It is believed they came originally from Canada. Wilkins was a hard-working man, who bore in town a good reputation. The family appeared to be a happy one. At the time of Mrs. Wilkins' death, they were living in the small house standing across the road and a little above the Town Hall.

During the season of 1904, it was remarked by several of Wilkins' neighbors and associates that he was acting queerly at times. He even confided to one such his suspicions that his wife intended to poison him. But as he seemed harmless and continued to work, no one felt disposed to take any action in the matter.

Wilkins' nearest neighbor was Samuel Kenney, the



old harness maker who lived alone in the little cabin set in the bank across and a little further up the road from the Wilkins house. About 9 o'clock of the evening of September 30, 1904, the small Wilkins boy came to Kenney's place. He said his mother was sick and that his father had gone to see the doctor and get some medicine, and that his father would be glad if Kenney would go to their house, as he hated to leave his sick wife alone even for that short time. Kenney complied cheerfully with the request, going at once to the Wilkins house. On entering he found the house quiet and still. A lamp burned in the kitchen. Here Kenney awaited Wilkins' return for an hour or more.

Finally the baby in an adjoining room, used by the Wilkins family as a sleeping room, began to make an outcry. Kenney took the lamp and went into the room. He was horrified at the scene before him. Mrs. Wilkins lay dead on the bed, her brains having been beaten out with an axe that, covered with her blood, was still lying in the room.

Kenney at once gave the alarm. Search was made for Wilkins, who had now disappeared. Inquiry developed he was not at the doctor's and had not been there. After several days the town offered a reward of \$200 for the apprehension of Wilkins. The next day after, David Dow came with Wilkins to the select-

men, saying Wilkins had called at his house and that he wished to deliver him up, also would they please pay him the reward. There was some haggling in regard to the reward with court proceedings. But the reward was finally paid to Dow by the selectmen.

Wilkins was put in jail. After having been examined by the doctors he was declared by them to be insane and committed to the State Hospital at Concord. The Wilkins children, of which there were now three, were taken care of by the authorities.

The story is told of a woman who lived in an ancient town in Massachusetts, the dwellers in which were somewhat clannish. The woman in question belonged to one of the oldest families in the town and lived next door to the town jail or lockup. One day a friend of hers, who lived in another town, mentioned to her the location of her house and suggested that her close association with the inmates of the jail might not always be pleasant, but was informed the prisoners caused her no trouble or anxiety, that they were really very good company, "Because, you see, they are nearly always our own townspeople. We have very few strangers."

In this spirit it will do no harm to point out the obvious fact that none of the three murders in Wentworth was committed by those who were really entitled to be considered Wentworth men. Shaw was an

outsider, and both Hanscom and Wilkins were newcomers, whose stay in town was brief, and whose criminal traits, if they had any, must have been developed elsewhere.

## CHAPTER IX

IN LIGHTER VEIN — MOSTLY GOSSIP —  
LAST MUSTER OF THE 35TH REGIMENT

### MOSTLY GOSSIP

Nothing which is set forth in this chapter should be taken too seriously, or accepted as of historic value. There is, however, ingrained in the people of our town, of every rural town, a mass of tradition, folklore, stories and relations that are of much interest, tending as they do to illustrate the character of the townspeople and the manner in which they have lived. Some of these things will, in a rather gossipy and rambling way, be mentioned.

Perhaps the first thing which will occur to many in speaking of the failings of our forbears will be that they were very superstitious, a weakness now discarded and outgrown.

The forms and objects of superstition do change more or less, but never entirely disappear from the human mind. The up-to-date and perhaps important person who tells you our ancestors were very ignorant and foolish because they believed in witchcraft will probably be depressed by seeing the new moon for



the first time over their left shoulder, or if handed a two dollar bill with other change. The old people, or many of them, did believe in witches; there is no doubt about that.

The archwizard and head necromancer of our town was no doubt Simeon Smith. He, it was commonly believed, had supernatural powers and thereby made his neighbors very uncomfortable at times.

“Wonderful were the feats he could perform. Sometimes, from sheer malice, he would saddle and bridle one of his neighbors and ride and gallop him all over the country round. The butter would not come, and he was in the churn. The cat mewed and tore wildly about the house, and he was tormenting her. The children behaved strangely and he had bewitched them. Smaller than a gnat, he could go through the keyhole; larger than a giant, he was seen at twilight stalking through the forest. He could travel in the thin air and, mounted on a moonbeam, fly swift as a meteor over the woods and above the mountains.” (Warren History.)

It must be admitted the above is important if true. We of the present time have outgrown these superstitions, we are so enlightened. Just the same, in one of the tall buildings in a nearby city, the next floor above the twelfth is numbered fourteen. In some hotels there are no rooms numbered thirteen, and



MAIN STREET AS IT WAS, WENTWORTH, N. H.



ONE DAY'S WORK



Friday is still as formerly "Black Friday," the day of ill omen.

The troubles growing out of the belief in witchcraft led at times to serious results. The outbreak of arson on the Buffalo Road in 1861 was caused largely by this fearful superstition. Mrs. Page Kimball, who lived near the present schoolhouse, was on bad terms with the Jabez Hall family on the Plummer place. Mrs. Hall's butter would not come, so no doubt Mrs. Kimball had bewitched the cream. Mrs. Hall heated a poker very hot and plunged it into the cream; there was a great commotion and a loud scream which seemed to issue from the churn. The butter now came properly; next day Mrs. Hall sent a child to Kimball's to see if they were as usual. The child came back and reported they were all right at the Kimball house, except Mrs. Kimball had a bad burn on one of her legs.

Mrs. Hall claimed that Mrs. Kimball persecuted her in many ways. One day the Halls saw Mrs. Kimball pass by on foot. They saw her spit on the ground in front of their house. As they said, she spit out her venom on them; at any rate most everything went wrong in the Hall household, causing them great misery. The tragic result of all this ill feeling has been told in another chapter.

It might be of interest to tell some stories, and we



will here relate a few anecdotes which have been told regarding Lemuel Keezer, the pioneer hotel keeper of the town.

Keezer was beyond a doubt one of the most original and perhaps most eccentric of the early settlers, and a very peculiar character. Those who would like to learn more of him would do well to consult Dr. Hoyt's manuscript. Keezer was unorthodox in all ways and loved to give the ministers, or at least some of them, a jolt.\* One year it was agreed that Keezer should pay his minister tax in produce.

When the time came for payment he took a large sack, put in some wheat, a little rye, some corn, india wheat, some beans and peas, also some small potatoes and mixed the whole mess thoroughly. He then carried it to the minister,† who opened the bag and was rather dismayed at the looks of its contents. Finally the poor minister told Keezer the grain was so mixed up it would do him no good. Keezer replied that was just the way with his sermons, and he guessed the account was square, then drove off.

Here is another of Little's stories of Keezer:

"One day Captain Daniel invited Elder Wood, a minister, to share with him the hospitality of our

\* William Little.

† Rev. Mr. Haynes of Rumney.

friend Keezer's hotel, and introduced him to the host as Elder Wood.

"'Elder Wood, Elder Wood,' exclaimed Keezer, snuffing his nose, 'that is the stinkiest wood I ever saw.'

"Captain Daniel's feelings can be imagined, for he was very pious and had great respect for his minister."

At another time Keezer agreed to pay Moses Clement of Warren in mutton for doing some blacksmith work. Clement did the work, and one morning found two sheep tied in his shop, one very large and fat, the other very poor.

Clement, the next time he saw Keezer, asked him what he meant by such work. Keezer replied that some of his blacksmith work was good, but some was mighty poor, and the skinny sheep was to pay for that part. (Warren History.)

Keezer had an old-fashioned sign hanging in front of his tavern; on one side he had painted the picture of a serpent, on the other the picture of a dove. He told inquirers he was just like the sign, a serpent at times, but generally a harmless dove.

Keezer at one time kept the stage horses at his tavern. To save work, he had some wooden harrows made and would put them under the horses at night, teeth up, so that they could not lie down and get dirty. This saved cleaning them off in the morning,

also it was a great kindness to the horses, so Keezer told his hostler.\*

Our friend Keezer, as will be seen from these stories, was amply able, as a rule, to take care of himself. Old Doctor Whipple once got the best of him. He went to the doctor one day to have a tooth pulled. The doctor decided the case was a bad one and he must first cut around the tooth; while doing this, Keezer, suffering greatly no doubt from the pain of the cutting and the aching tooth, snapped his jaws together and bit the doctor's fingers until the blood ran.

The doctor made no complaint, but proceeded to apply his old cant-hook style forceps to the tooth. After he got a firm grip on the tooth he held the sufferer's head firmly with a strong hand, looked him squarely in the eye and said, "Now Keezer, bite, damn ye, bite!"

#### STORY OF SAMUEL ELLSWORTH

In the old times, there was much rivalry among the boys and men in the matter of wrestling, and this rivalry extended to the various towns. At one time a match between Wentworth and Rumney was arranged. Much interest was aroused in the coming event which was to decide the important issue of the championship of the two towns.

\*William Little.

The match was duly held at Rumney in a convenient barn. The contestants, with their friends and others interested, filled the barn to its capacity.

It was agreed that the contest should consist of two rounds: the first to be the collar and elbow style, in which quickness, agility and skill counted for more than weight or main strength; the second round was to be the rough and tumble, catch-as-catch-can style, and open to all comers.

The collar and elbow contest was duly held; gradually the contestants were eliminated as their turn came, the bout being finally won by the Wentworth champion, Winthrop Gove.

In the second round, the Wentworth men did not fare as well. The leader of the Rumney forces overcame one by one, all who were pitted against him, and the match seemed likely to end in an inconclusive draw.

At this stage of the proceedings, the Rumney Ajax, flushed with victory, inquired if the match was over or did the visitors "Want to bring on some more of the Wentworth underbrush?"

This rather truculent challenge roused the ire of Samuel Ellsworth, one of the many Wentworth spectators. Ellsworth did not claim to be a wrestler, but was known to be a strong and powerful man.

He now jumped into the ring, caught the Rumney



champion by both shoulders, yanked him completely off his feet and then threw him over his own head, dropping him none too gently on the barn floor. As there was no further effort made by the men of Rumney and no more allusions to "Wentworth underbrush," the match came to an end. The Wentworth crowd then departed in high spirits, having won both decisions. (Related by Col. Joseph Savage.)

### MELL COLBURN

It is very doubtful if any man in town was better known to most of the boys of fifty years ago than was James M., or, as he was always called, "Mell" Colburn. He was of medium size, swarthy, with black hair and full black beard, and the presiding genius at Colburn's store for many years.

This store was the headquarters for such firearms and ammunition as was dearest to the heart of every small boy and would-be hunter. He dealt in powder, gun caps, shot and bullets, fishhooks, lines, poles and sinkers. The Nimrods of Wentworth, Dorchester, North Groton and West Rumney got most of their equipment and supplies from him. He took from them, in payment, fox skins, mink, skunk, raccoon and muskrat pelts, and also game.

A fixed schedule of prices was the rule; a partridge was 25 cents; a rabbit, 15 cents; a gray squirrel, 10

cents. He also bought woodpeckers, blue jays and hen hawks if they were in good condition. Sometimes an unlucky boy who tried to work off on "Mell" an over-ripe rabbit or blue jay would be severely dealt with. In his little court, "Mell" was judge, jury and executioner and the boys had no appeal from his decisions, which were fair and just, in all cases.

As a rule, he gave credit to the boys if they needed it, and usually got his pay, too, in the end. He had quite a good-sized book well filled with such accounts. He used a sort of shaker filled with very fine sand to dry the ink on his books in place of blotting paper. He dealt also in fiddles and musical supplies of various kinds, jews'-harps and harmonicas. He had a small mechanical organ or "organette," which made weird music when the crank was turned. A sheet of perforated paper was the music used. The tune could be changed by putting in a different sheet or roll. This was looked upon as a wonderful piece of work.

Although he sold more powder and shot and handled more game than all the rest of the men in town, "Mell" never went hunting himself. He kept up his trading as long as the Colburns kept the mill property; the boys greatly mourned the closing up of this portion of the Colburn business.

## SPINNING AND WEAVING

This very modest article would probably be held to be faulty and incomplete, if no mention was made of some branches of home industry, formerly a part, and no small part either, of the work of the women of every household in the earlier days.

All wore homespun garments and, as families were usually large, much labor at carding, spinning and weaving was required. Clothes made of homespun were warm and durable. The dresses of women and children were generally of a dark or reddish ground, checked with a few threads of some other color. These colors were "dyed in the wool." Deep blue and white in a four-thread check was in favor for skirts and aprons. The fadeless indigo blue was much in evidence. The dye pot filled with indigo was found in every household. Butternut was another favorite dye. The farmer wore a long frock or blouse of checked blue and white. The boys had jumpers or short frocks of the same material. Sheep's grey, that is, black and white wool mixed in the carding, was another standard color for men's wear. Flax was raised largely and the flax products were everywhere in use. A little cotton was bought at times and carded in with the flax or wool. Tow was much used for coarse goods.

Some of the homespun hand-woven linen compares, in fineness and quality, favorably with the product of our best mills of today; the same can also be said of some of the woollen goods.

Sheets, blankets and coverlets for the beds were also provided by the female members of the household. Help was often hired to aid in the spinning and weaving. Girls would go out and spin for fifty cents a week. They were treated as one of the family. One of these handmaidens was told by the mistress, on beginning work, that "She didn't care nuthin how she spun her yarn if only 'twas fine, even and handsome." A silk dress was an article of great luxury and lasted as a rule for a lifetime; such dresses are frequently mentioned in the appraisals of estates also in wills.

The most desired article of jewelry was a string of gold beads; such a string of beads cost from eight to ten dollars. Ambitious girls worked out a whole season in order to purchase a string of these beads. The beads were wanted for purposes of adornment and also were believed to have a great medicinal value and power to ward off disease. After all, a set of gold beads is as worthy an object as a fur coat and lasts much longer.

The ancient hand looms with all their intricate system of treadles, reeds, shuttles and many other



accessories have gone the way of the spinning wheels, flax wheels, reels, swifts, dye pots and all the countless other things that made possible the homespun textile industry.

Now that we are speaking of raiment, something can be said about footwear, or the lack of it. It need not shock, or even surprise anyone who may read this page, to find that formerly people often went barefooted, not only children, who have always ran more or less in their bare feet and do now, but grown-up men and women. It is the tradition General Absalom Peters was barefooted usually in the summer time. One summer he made a trip to Concord on town business and was gone for some time. When he got home he complained bitterly that he had to wear shoes all the time he was gone and suffered greatly because his feet got so sore from the effects of the shoes.

\* Samuel Smart, when over eighty years of age, came on the road one day in June to work out his tax. He was using a hoe leveling the dirt in the road. The ground was rough and full of cobble stone. The old man was wearing leather boots when he came to work, but pulled them off and worked on the stony ground all day barefooted. Some of the younger men asked him if the stones were not pretty hard on his

\* Charles Turner's statement.

feet. He said, "No, not so hard as the boots," and, further, "that he had never worn boots or shoes a day in his life in hoeing time and no use to begin now." Going barefoot was no new experience to this veteran of the revolution.

The women and girls were not less capable than the men in this respect. One November day the larger scholars in one of the town schools had a foot race. The distance was about a quarter of a mile, and the race was won by a girl.† Now if the fact that a girl outran the boys on this occasion was all there was to it, the story would not be worth telling. There have been Atalantas ever since the days of ancient Greece; but what makes this event unusual was the fact that the ground was covered with snow at the time and the girl ran barefooted. We are not informed whether the girl had any shoes or not, but it seems very unlikely that she or any of the scholars were going without shoes with snow on the ground. It is more reasonable to conclude the girl was quite used to bare feet in season and took off her shoes at the time of the race so that her style would not be cramped, and the result appears to have justified her confidence in the virtue of bare feet.

Old Ethan Allen Crawford, born and raised in the White Mountains, has left it on record that he never

† Dr. Hoyt.

had hat, cap, shoes or mittens of his own until he was over eleven years old. The Crawford family was a large one, so at times he got a chance to wear things that belonged to others, but he was much of the time in his bare feet, and said his hands were seldom cold, and did not remember he ever suffered greatly with cold feet during this experience.

Our girls of today often take pride in being athletic, but would have found it hard to have kept up in some respects with some of their sex in earlier generations.

When Samuel Hodge was drowned in Baker's River in 1780, his wife was left in a hard case with a family of small children; she was, however, to say the least, very able-bodied and capable.

John Blodgett lived then in Rumney near Mrs. Hodge. Blodgett had a very large old-growth pine tree that he wanted cut, but on account of its size none of the men would undertake the job of felling the tree. Mrs. Hodge saw Blodgett and told him she would fell the tree for him if he would build her a platform or staging to stand on while she worked, and would give her twelve pounds of flax. He agreed to do this and Mrs. Hodge worked three days to fell the tree. After she had laid low the mighty tree and received her pay, she proceeded to spin and weave the flax, thus clothing herself and family for the

winter. She later married Thomas Todd and then had another burden on her hands.

Todd, while he lived in town, got possession of a horse in some left-handed way; finally the rightful owner of the horse went to get it back and the two men had an argument about it. At last, the owner addressed Todd in a poetic although profane strain as follows:

“Sir Thomas Todd,  
I swear by God,  
If you don't this horse resign,  
I'll teach you law,  
Upon the jaw,  
With this good paw of mine.”

It is said Todd gave up the horse.

Mrs. Hodge, or Mrs. Todd, as you prefer, may have been a relative to Mrs. John McNiel of Derry.

McNiel was called the best wrestler in town. One day a stranger came to the house and told Mrs. McNiel he had come a long distance to meet McNiel and wrestle with him, to which the good wife replied that her husband was away and would be gone all day, but, rather than disappoint her caller, she would wrestle with him herself and did so, and got the best of it. The stranger was so cut up at being thrown by a woman, he left in a hurry without even giving his name.

In later times in town, Ephraim Cook, commonly



called "Daddy Cook," and T. P. Nutting, the proprietor of the sawmill, were both a source of amusement to the boys, who as a general thing would have done better to have been attending to their own business.

But if the truth must be told, both Cook and Nutting were rather peculiar in speech and action; it was great fun for the boys to get either of these men stirred up over something and hear them lay down the law. One day Nutting hired a transient fellow to work around the mill, and had to furnish his new hand some footwear at once. The man quit the job before he had worked long enough to pay for the new boots, and was going to walk away in them, but Nutting stopped him and made him take off the boots. One of the village smart Alecks later said, "Mr. Nutting, I hear you took a pair of boots right off the feet of one of your men." Nutting's reply was characteristic. "Understand, sir, I did, I did, sir, and took his feeting too, sir." "Took his feeting, too," was a byword in the village for years.

Ephraim Cook married for his second wife the Widow Staniels. The elderly couple had each some property in their own right. They were frugal in their habits and each kept their own property for their own use. It used to be said each one bought their own food, which was kept separate at the table. Mrs. Cook had a State of New Hampshire bond, and one year sent

the interest coupon to Concord by the then representative, Mr. Plummer, to have it cashed. He got the money and soon called at the Cook house to deliver the lucre.

Mr. Cook was in the yard; he was quite deaf and talked strongly through his nose. Mr. Plummer said, "I have got some money for your wife, Mr. Cook." Cook came up to the wagon, cupped his hand over his ear and said, "Huh?" Plummer repeated more loudly what he first said. The old man heard him that time and looked disappointed, but finally announced, with almost a snort, "Well, it won't do me any good if you have," and walked away. Mr. Plummer had to go into the house, find Mrs. Cook and deliver the money himself.

The early settlers were cautious. At one of the town meetings in the early days, it was first "voted that what is done at this meeting, shall be binding." The attention of our legislature, whose acts are occasionally held to be void because unconstitutional, is respectfully called to the above. It might be worth trying.

Speaking of farm relief, during the past few months a much mooted topic, we find history only repeats itself. In 1799, or about that date, one of the articles in the town meeting warrant read as follows:

“To see if the town will vote to petition the legislature to enact a law that will effectually prevent the growth of thistles.”

Thistles in the growing flax was a source of much annoyance to the farmers.

Possibly the above article, which was dismissed at the meeting, was intended as a sarcastic thrust at some other wildcat scheme then pending before our general court.

Human nature has changed but little in all the years of recorded time.

A very wise man has said that “A new sucker is born every minute.” The cigarette smokers have amply demonstrated this to be exactly and literally true.

Almost in the same class are the childish voters, who appear to believe you have only to pass a law, and the thing is done.

The early settlers of Wentworth were, as might be expected, largely of English descent. There was, however, a surprisingly large infusion of Scottish blood. This hardy and tenacious race were well fitted to succeed as pioneers. Of the early settlers, the following were Scotch by descent; the Akin or Aiken family, David Craig, David Gibson, Asa Putney, Aaron Putney, Alexander Stewart, Hugh McClellan, David Saunders or Sanders. In later years,

we can add to the above, Caleb Keith, probably; James Harris, William D. McQuesten, as well as the families of Patterson, Simpson, Boyd, Campbell, Fraser and McClure. The Rowens were Scotch almost certainly, as were the Moores.

## THE THIRTY-FIFTH'S LAST MUSTER

Mention has been made already several times of the militia system as it existed in the various towns of our state prior to 1850. It was an important part of the life of those times. Some of the military titles conferred for militia service still persist after a lapse of eighty years. We can still hear some of our people speak of Captain Gove, Captain Currier, or perhaps of Colonel Savage.

During 1849, and for some years previous, the men from Dorchester, Groton, Rumney and Wentworth were organized to form the 35th Regiment, State Militia. This regiment, with four others, composed of men from the southern part of Grafton County, formed the Sixth Brigade of the Fourth Division.

The Brigade was commanded by General Samuel B. Burnham of Rumney.

General Burnham, who lived to an advanced age, is well remembered even yet throughout the region.

The regimental officers of the 35th, during 1849,



the last year of its existence, were as follows: Colonel, Abel Morrison of Rumney; Lieutenant-Colonel, Joshua R. Wheet of North Groton; Major, Rawson Z. Clifford of Wentworth; Adjutant, Oscar S. Hall of Rumney; Quartermaster, Lyman P. Whitcher of Wentworth; Surgeon, A. C. Hall of Rumney; Chaplain, Rev. Phineas Bond of Rumney.

Some forty years ago, General Burnham, in a newspaper interview, gave the reporter an account of his militia experience, which was published at the time, and the article attracted quite a lot of attention. What the aged General had to say about the last appearance of the 35th Regiment on the muster field was put by the reporter into print as follows:

There was a genuine flavor of chivalry and romance associated with the annual regimental musters of the old militia. They occurred in the autumnal seasons and were, to the large body of the population, the greatest events of the year. The localities of these encampments were fixed upon by the colonels of the respective regiments, and were held in the towns that were most accessible to the scattered troops. The last muster of the old 35th was held in Rumney in 1849, and as there was a premonition that the military system would soon be abolished, the occasion was made a very spirited and brilliant one.

"The location of the muster was in the romantic valley of Baker's River, the surrounding mountains making it almost a natural amphitheatre, while the scene was brightened with golden sunshine, the fresh verdure, the ripening harvests and the richly colored autumnal foliage.

"The attendance of spectators was very large, there being

a regular inpouring of people from all the towns in that section. It is related that there was not a house in Rumney whose doors were not opened for the dispensing of generous hospitality upon that occasion. Before noon the muster field presented a very animated and unique scene. Among the early callers upon General Burnham were several very aged Revolutionary soldiers who had fought at Bunker Hill, endured the hardships of the terrible winter at Valley Forge, and been present at the surrender of Cornwallis. The forenoon was mostly devoted to inspections and drills. Early in the afternoon occurred the grand review, which was regarded as the great feature of the muster. Each company had a fifer and two drummers; there were buglers to sound the calls, and also, what was unusual in those days in the country, a brass band. General Burnham and Colonel Morrison, with their respective staffs, made a brilliant appearance, while at the right of the column, in the review, was the First Company of Light Infantry of Rumney, Capt. David M. Hall; then followed the Second Company of Light Infantry, known as the Wentworth Phalanx, formerly commanded by Capt. Thomas J. Whipple, afterward a distinguished officer in the Mexican War and the Rebellion, but then led by Capt. Samuel G. Currier; next were four companies of regular infantry, whose respective commanders were: Capt. George C. Spaulding, now living in Rumney; Capt. Cyrus Sargent, Capt. Seth M. Blanchard and Capt. Benjamin R. Norris; the riflemen of Dorchester, flanked by their stalwart pioneers, whose battle axes flashed in the sunlight, were commanded by Capt. Josiah Norris, Jr., while on the extreme left was the artillery company from Groton, Capt. Joseph Wheat. The two companies of light infantry, the riflemen and the artillery were all in immaculate uniforms and their regular step and martial bearing won for them very general encomiums, while the regiment as a whole made a fine showing, and although there were in line a few veterans of the War of 1812 and of that with

Mexico, yet the flower of the regiment was composed of fair young men in the bloom of health, not a small number of whom did not forget their early military training, but were among the first to enlist from New Hampshire in the War of the Rebellion. General Burnham made a feeling and complimentary address to the soldiers, who were soon afterward dismissed, and later the setting sun and an occasional distant bugle call, 'dying into night,' from some musician wending his way homeward, emphasized the fact that the pomp and glories of the old militia had departed forever."

## CHAPTER X

### ROSTER OF SOLDIERS, 1776 TO 1918 — SOME PEN- SIONERS OF THE REVOLUTION — OTHER MILI- TARY INFORMATION

#### ROSTER OF SOLDIERS

##### WAR OF THE REVOLUTION — 1775-1782

Men who went from Wentworth into the army:

Benjamin Cotton  
Ebenezer Gove  
William Heath  
General Absalom Peters  
Benjamin Smith  
Simeon Smith

The above men all served on the Northern Frontier and during the latter part of the war, except possibly Benjamin Cotton.

The following Revolutionary soldiers came after the war had closed, to live in town and died residents of Wentworth:

James Foster  
Abner Hoyt  
Lieut. Caleb Keith  
Samuel Johnson  
Samuel Smart



Peter Stevens

John Rowen

Aaron Putney (probably)

Of the above, James Foster went probably from Pelham, N. H.; Abner Hoyt was with General Stark at Bennington; Caleb Keith was a commissioned officer in the Revolutionary Army; Samuel Smart went to the war from Rumney; Samuel Johnson went probably from Sutton, N. H.; Aaron Putney is believed to have served two years in the army, from Dunbarton, N. H.

It is of interest to note here that in 1840 there were in town the following Revolutionary pensioners:

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Caleb Keith    | Age 85 years |
| Samuel Smart   | " 77 "       |
| Samuel Johnson | " 84 "       |
| Ebenezer Gove  | " 85 "       |
| Sarah Rowen    | " 78 "       |
| Molly Stevens* | " 87 "       |
| Rebecca Smith† | " 77 "       |

#### WAR OF 1812-1815

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Enoch Page, Jr.     | Sergeant |
| William Leicester   | Private  |
| David Saunders, Jr. | Private  |
| Benjamin Smith, Jr. | Private  |

The above served in Captain Mahurin's Co. on the Northern Frontier; enlistments were for six months.

\* Living with Rufus Stevens.

† Living with Oliver Ellsworth.



*Photo by Margaret Fraser*

VILLAGE CEMETERY — GRAVES OF SOLDIERS IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION



William Leicester served two enlistments or one year in this command, in 1812-13.

The following men served in 1814 in the force hastily raised for the defence of Portsmouth. Enlistments were for sixty days:

|                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Wentworth Downs | 2nd Lieutenant, Harty's Co. |
| William Aiken   | 2nd Sergeant, Harty's Co.   |
| John Aiken      | Private                     |
| Enoch Knowlton  | Private                     |

The above list is doubtless incomplete.

#### SEMINOLE WAR — 1836

Joseph Whitmore went perhaps from Hebron into the army. Lived the latter part of his life in Wentworth and died there, a pensioner by special act of Congress.

#### MEXICAN WAR — 1846-1847

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Thomas J. Whipple, Jr. | Field and Staff, Pierce's Regt. |
| Michel W. Page         | Private, 9th Regt.              |

Whipple became in after years, Colonel Whipple, of Civil War fame. Page returned from the war in poor health, gloomy and depressed, dying finally by his own hand.



## CIVIL WAR — 1861-1865

Residents of Wentworth serving on the quota of the town:

Boyd, Orlando — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 20; enl. Aug. 30, '62; private; app. corp. June 1, '65; must. out June 21, '65; was in every battle in which his regiment fought and came through whole; died Dec. 21, '27, Canaan, N. H.

Breck, George C. — Co. G, 12th N. H.; born Sherborn, Mass., age 30; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 28, '62; private; wounded May 3, '63, Chancellorsville, Va.; trans. to Invalid Corps Nov. 17, '63; discharged Aug. 11, '65, Albany, N. Y.; died Jan. 5, '85, Bristol, N. H.

Brown, Lewis E. — Co. G, Heavy Art.; born Kenduskeag, Maine, age 18; cred. Wentworth; enl. Sept. 2, '64, for one year; must. out June 15, '65.

Burnham, Albert — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Enfield, age 20; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 27, '62; private; wounded May 3, '63, Chancellorsville, Va.; corp. Sept. 1, '64; captured Nov. 17, '64, Bermuda Hundred, Va.; exc. Apr. 19, '65; must. out June 21, '65; died in Wentworth.

Casey, Patrick O. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Ireland, age 42; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 28, '62; private; killed May 3, '63, Chancellorsville, Va.

Chase, George C. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Deerfield, age 19; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 30, '62; private; missing May 3, '63, Chancellorsville, Va.; gained from missing; app. corp. July 1, '64; must. out June 21, '65; lived later at Haverhill, Mass.

Chase, William O. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Deerfield, age 35; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 13, '62; private; wounded July 2, '63, Gettysburg, Pa.; corp. Aug. 5, '63; wounded June 3, '64, Cold Harbor, Va.; captured Nov. 17, '64, on picket Bermuda Hundred, Va.; exc. Apr. 29, '65; discharged to date

- June 21, '65; lived in Wentworth after the war and died there, Sept. 1, '91.
- Clifford, Amon W. — Co. E, 1st Regt. U. S. Sharpshooters; born Wentworth, Age 24; enl. Aug. 30, '62; Private; died, disease, Nov. 12, '62, Washington, D. C.
- Cross, Joseph G. — Co. I, 6th N. H.; born Canterbury, age 27; res. Wentworth; enl. Nov. 23, '61; private; discharged, disabled, June 24, '62, Annapolis, Md.; lived in Wentworth after the war.
- Eames, Homer — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 28; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 9, '62; private; wounded Dec. 12, '62, Fredericksburg, Va., and died, wounds, Dec. 16, '62, Washington, D. C.
- Eames, James C. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 20; enl. Aug. 26, '62; private; served three years; must. out June 21, '65; always lived in Wentworth and died there; buried in Village Cemetery.
- Ellsworth, Bartlett — Co. A, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 39; enl. Aug. 26, '62; private; died, disease, Dec. 22, '62, Potomac Creek, Va.
- Ellsworth, Benjamin — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 42; enl. Aug. 28, '62; private; wounded and discharged, wounds, Apr. 15, '63, Falmouth, Va.; always lived in Wentworth and died there Apr. 11, '81.
- Ellsworth, George W. — Co. A, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 18; enl. Aug. 26, '62; private; wounded June 3, '64, Cold Harbor, Va., and died of wounds June 4, '64.
- Ellsworth, James M. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 22; enl. Aug. 26, '62; private; wounded very severely June 3, '64, Cold Harbor, Va.; discharged May 30, '65; always lived in Wentworth and died there.
- Ellsworth, Jason C. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 33; enl. Aug. 7, '62; private; died, disease, June 26, '63, Fairfax Seminary, Va.
- Ellsworth, John C. — Co. A, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 39; enl. Aug. 30, '62; private; missing May 3, '63, Chan-

- cellorsville, Va.; gained from missing; discharged, disabled, Concord Sept. 7, '64; died Oct. 9, '81, Wentworth.
- Ellsworth, Samuel — Co. A, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 42; enl. Aug. 7, '62; private; captured May 3, '63, Chancellorsville, Va.; paroled May 15, '63; trans. 5th Co. Invalid Corps Jan. 15, '64, to Co. D, 1st Vet. Res. Corps; deserted Oct. 15, '64, Albany, N. Y.; lived in Wentworth after the war.
- Ellsworth, Thomas J. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 24; enl. Aug. 13, '62; private; killed in battle May 3, '63, Chancellorsville, Va.
- Getchell, Sebastian S. — Co. I, 6th N. H.; born Winslow, Maine, age 28; res. Wentworth; enl. Nov. 18, '61; private; wounded Dec. 13, '62, Fredericksburg, Va.; app. sergt., re-enl., Dec. 19, '63; app. 2nd Lieut. Co. G, 1st Lieut., July 2, '64; discharged, disabled, Aug. 2, '64.
- Haynes, Alba C. — Co. G, 2nd N. H.; born Wentworth, age 18; enl. May 3, '61; re-enl. May 21, '61 for three years as private; re-enl. Feb. 19, '64; cred. Wentworth; app. sergt. July 1, '64; served as color sergt.; discharged Dec. 19, '65; was conductor on B. C. & M. R. R. after the war and died in Lancaster, N. H.
- Holbrook, George I. — Co. I, 6th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 18; enl. Nov. 23, '61; private; died, disease, Feb. 18, '62, Hatteras Inlet, N. C.
- Hoyt, Caleb — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wilmot, age 21; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 26, '62; private; wounded May 3, '63, Chancellorsville, Va., and discharged, wounds, Sept. 30, '63, Point Lookout, Md.
- Hoyt, David P. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wilmot, age 24; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 28, '62; private; trans. Co. D, Invalid Corps, Jan. 15, '64; discharged July 14, '65, Elmira, N. Y.
- Kimball, Lyman — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 40; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 26, '62; private; wounded severely May 16, '64, Drewrys Bluff, Va.; discharged, disabled, June 15, '65, Concord; died July 26, '90, Wentworth.

- Kimball, Wellman — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 34; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 28, '62; private; died, disease, Nov. 15, '62, Frederick, Md.
- Kittrell, Solomon H. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Kingston, Mass., age 41; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 28, '62; private; wounded May 3, '63, Chancellorsville, Va., July 2, '63, Gettysburg, Pa.; discharged, disabled, Sept. 30, '63, Point Lookout, Md.
- Martin, Benjamin F. (called Frank Martin) — No record of his service, in Adj. Gen. office. Dr. Hoyt assigned him to 6th N. H. Regt. A deserter and bounty jumper.
- May, Hollis K. — Co. A, 6th N. H.; born Derby, Vt., age 18; res. Wentworth; enl. Sept. 26, '61; private; discharged Apr. 7, '63; last address, Beatrice, Neb.
- Patterson, George E. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born South Merrimack, age 25; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 29, '62; private; discharged, disabled, Oct. 30, '63, Brattleboro, Vt.; was living in South Merrimack in 1885.
- Philbrick, Cyrus J. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 18; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 30, '62; private; wounded Dec. 12, '62, Fredericksburg, Va.; died, disease, Jan. 30, '63, Falmouth, Va.; also served in Co. I, 6th N. H.
- Preston, Clinton F. — Co. A, 12th N. H.; born Rumney, age 35; res. Wentworth; enl. Aug. 13, '62; private; wounded May 3, '63, Chancellorsville, Va.; trans. Co. C, 11th Vet. Res. Corps May 1, '64; discharged Aug. 16, '65, Providence, R. I.; lived later in Laconia.
- Smith, Albert C. — Co. I, 6th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 20; enl. Nov. 18, '61; corp.; wounded severely Sept. 17, '62, Antietam, Md.; re-enl. Dec. 24, '63, as private; credited Rumney; app. corp.; must. out July 17, '65.
- Smith, Byron — Co. F, 4th N. H.; born Orford, age 27; enl. Aug. 22, '61; private; sentenced in June '63, two yrs. hard labor and be discharged; no further record. (From Dr. Hoyt's list.)
- Smith, Edward S. — Co. A, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age



42; enl. Aug. 11, '62; private; died, disease, March 19, '63, Falmouth, Va.

Stanyan, James H. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 29; enl. Aug. 13, '62; must. in Sept. 11, '62, as musician; discharged, disabled, Jan. 12, '63, Concord.

Stevens, John O. — Co. B, 2nd N. H.; born Wentworth, age 32; enl. May 21, '61; must. in June 1, '61; corp.; app. sergt. Nov. '61; a Sharpshooter; wounded July 2, '63; died, wounds, July 3, '63, Gettysburg, Pa.; buried in East Side Cemetery.

Wallace, Charles — Co. I, 6th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 19; enl. Nov. 18, '61; private; died, disease, Feb. 13, '62, Hatteras Inlet, N. C.

Wallace, William, Jr. — Co. K, 12th N. H.; born Wentworth, age 22; enl. Aug. 13, '62; private; app. corp. July 19, '63; sergt. June 10, '64; must. out June 21, '65; lived after the war in Campton.

Residents of Wentworth who served elsewhere during the war:

Daniels, Nelson — Co. F, 9th N. H.; born Lebanon, age 18; res. Wentworth; enl. July 11, '62; private; cred. Rumney; died, disease, Jan. 11, '63, near Fredericksburg, Va.

Eames, Rodney — Co. D, Vermont Cav.; age 40; cred. Chelsea, Vt.; enl. Sept. 26, '61; private; must. out Nov. 18, '64; lived after the war in Wentworth and died there. Contracted lameness in the army and used crutches for many years.

Farnsworth, Hiram M. — Co. D, 1st Vermont Cav.; age 39; enl. Sept. 21, '61, for three years; enl. Feb. 26, '64 for three years in Co. C, 2nd Mass. Cav.; discharged Oct. 3, '64; moved to Rumney about 1868; died there March 31, '79.

Howard, James S. — Co. F, 7th Vermont Inf.; born Wentworth; enl. Aug. 7, '64; private; cred. Topsham, Vt.; must. out Aug. 14, '65; res. Wentworth.

Kenney, George W. — Co. G, 6th Vermont Inf.; res. Wentworth;

enl. Aug. 20, '62, for three years; private; cred. Orange, Vt.; wounded May 4, '63; served in Vet. Res. Corps; discharged July 1, '65.

Simpson, Willard — Co. H, 18th Mass. Inf.; age 21; enl. Aug. 21, '61; private; wounded, Chancellorsville, Va.; served three years; enl. again March 28, '65, in Co. H, 4th Inf. Vet. Vols. as private; discharged May 28, '66.

Substitutes credited town of Wentworth:

*2nd N. H.*

Wardrobe, William — Co. I; Canadian.

*4th N. H.*

Coffin, William H. — Co. F; born Maine; served nearly two years and left a good record.

*5th N. H.*

Keating, Thomas — Co. F; born Ireland; served nearly a year.  
Lawson, Peter L. — Born Sweden; had a good record and went through to Appomattox; enl. Sept. 10, '64; missing Apr. 7, '65, Farmville, Va.

*6th N. H.*

Cox, Thomas E. — Born New York; rept. July 17, '65; absent on detached service; no further record.

Fourney, Levi — Co. A; born N. Y.; enl. Jan. 5, '64; wounded at Spotsylvania, Va., and taken prisoner Sept. 30, '64, Poplar Spring Church, Va.; discharged Sept. 2, '65, Albany, N. Y.

Harbison, Samuel B. — Born Ireland; never got to the front.

Harwood, Elijah O. — Co. I; born Vermont; served one year and five months.

Howe, Rufus — Co. H; born Vermont, age 18; served Jan. 4, '64, to June 27, '65.

Kerr, William — Co. I; born Ireland, age 43; enl. Jan. 4, '64; died, disease and starvation, Salisbury Prison, N. C., Dec. 31, '64.

Lewis, Almond D. — Co. I; born Vermont, age 19; served three months and died, disease, April 1, '64, Covington, Ky.

Miller, Alexander — Co. E; born Canada, age 21; served from Jan. 5, '64, to June 24, '65.

Morrill, James — Co. H; born New York, age 19; in service five months and died, disease, June 24, '65.

Osgood, Hial A. — Co. E; born New Hampshire, age 44; deserted while on furlough.

*7th N. H.*

Conway, James B. — Co. F.; born Ireland; enl. Sept. 28, '64; a deserter.

Edwards, Charles — Co. E; born England; deserted after two months' service.

Howard, James — Born Ireland, age 27; unassigned; never got to regiment.

*8th N. H.*

DeWilder, Frederick — Co. C; born Germany; deserted at New Orleans, La.

Dixon, Charles — Co. F; born Canada; enl. Nov. 3, '63, and saw it through.

Despiere, Francis — Co. H; born France; deserted after four months' service.

Goldsmith, William — Co. F; born Pennsylvania, age 25; in army Nov. 3, '63, to Sept. 16, '65.

Mahanna, Thomas — Co. D; born Ireland, age 25; nearly two years' service to his credit.

Quigley, Andrew — Co. C; born Maine, age 30; a deserter at the end of three months.

Thompson, Frank — Unassigned; born New Brunswick, age 22; only got to West Lebanon and then disappeared.

*9th N. H.*

Bucker, William — Co. I; born Prussia, age 27; deserted after seven months.

Howland, Richardson — Co. B; born Lisbon, age 38; was also in Co. B, 6th N. H.

*1st N. H. Cavalry*

Miner, Chauncy H. — Born Littleton, age 18; a late recruit; saw no service, probably; enl. April 5, '65, the last recruit from Wentworth.

Men born in Wentworth but not residents of the town when they joined the army. An abridged record:

Avery, Elbridge — Res. Meredith, age 21; served three years in Co. F, 8th N. H.; enl. again from Laconia in Co. A, Vet. Batt. 8th N. H., and served to Oct. 28, '65.

Barnes, John O. — Res. Canaan, age 24; enl. Aug. 9, '62, Co. H, 11th N. H.; private; wounded mortally at Spotsylvania, Va., May 12, '64, and died wounds May 15, '64.

Currier, John C. — Res. Enfield, age 23; enl. Aug. 12, '62, and served nearly three years; Private in Co. H, 11th N. H.

Foster, Amos P. — Res. Plymouth, age 20; enl. Oct. 28, '61, Co. A, 6th N. H.; private; discharged, disabled, Oct. 25, '62, Washington, D. C.

Haines, Nestor — Res. Nashua, age 22; enl. April 30, '61, Co. F, 1st N. H.; served three months; enl. in 8th N. H. Sept. 9, '61; promoted to sergt. and 2nd lieut.; discharged Sept. 2, '63.

Hardy, Frederick P. — Res. Hebron; enl. Oct. 29, '61; private, Co. A, 6th N. H.; app. corp., then sergt.; re-enl.; 2nd lieut., Jan. 2, '64; capt. Co. K, June 8, '65; a most excellent soldier, as his record plainly shows.

Haynes, James E. — Res. Haverhill, age 21; served as private, Co. I, 4th N. H., Aug. 27, '61, to Sept. 27, '64.

Hobbs, Carey — Co. K, 12th N. H. Born Wentworth; res. Dorchester; cred. Dorchester; enl. Aug. 22, '62; private; killed in battle July 2, '63, Gettysburg, Pa.

Hobbs, Charles P. — Res. Gilford, age 19; served two enlistments in Co. D, 4th N. H.; wounded severely June 30, '64, near Petersburg, Va., and died of wounds Oct. 19, '64, Ft. Monroe, Va.



- Hobbs, Fernando — Res. Warren, age 20; enl. Aug. 19, '62, in Co. H, 14th N. H., as private; died May 17, '63, at Warren.
- Jewett, Alonzo W. — Res. Bristol, age 22; enl. Aug. 12, '62, in Co. D, 12th N. H.; was sergt. and later 2nd lieut., Co. I; wounded at Cold Harbor, Va.; served until close of the war.
- Jewett, Olof L. — Res. Holderness; served in Co. E, 12th N. H. as corp.; killed in battle May 3, '63, Chancellorsville, Va.
- Rainey, George H. — Res. Weare; enl. Feb. 6, '62; private, Co. K, 7th N. H.; made corp. Awarded Gilmore Medal of Honor for bravery; killed in battle Feb. 20, '64, Olustee, Fla.
- Sanders, Albert — Res. Orford, age 24; Co. C, 5th N. H.; enl. Sept. 17, '61; killed in battle Dec. 13, '62, Fredericksburg, Va.
- Smith, Benjamin — Res. Lyme; served in Co. E, 17th Inf., U. S. Army; discharged, disabled, Feb. 16, '63; has lived since in Lyme.
- Smith, Luther — Born in Wentworth; went to the war from Lyme; served three years in Co. C, 5th N. H.; wounded three times; lived in Wentworth after the war for many years.
- Webb, James — Born Wentworth, age 24; enl. April 9, '61, at Boston in Navy. Served on U. S. S. *Ohio* and *Minnesota*; des. from *Minnesota* Dec. 31, '62.
- Whipple, Thomas J. — Res. Laconia, age 45; lieut. col. 1st N. H. Vols.; served three mos.; col. 4th N. H. Vols. Aug. 20, '61, to March 18, '62; chosen as Col. 12th N. H., but not mustered in.
- Whitcher, Charles C. — Res. Dorchester, age 20; served two enlistments in Co. I, 7th N. H. app. corp. and sergt. and was in the army until July 20, '65.

Some veterans who have lived more or less in town since the war closed:

- Brown, George H. — Co. A, 2nd Mass.; enlisted from Lowell, Mass.; served about two years as private; lived many years in Wentworth and died there.

- Connor, Stephen C. — Co. B, 4th N. H.; lived several years in town and later died in Warren.
- Estes, Thomas J. — Served three years in Cos. E and H, 17th Inf., U. S. A.; lived in Wentworth later and died there.
- Robbins, Walter S. — Served in Co. H, 18th N. H. from Londonderry; lived in Wentworth after the war and died there Nov. 30, 1882.
- Rogers, John C. — Served from Lisbon nearly four years in Co. H, 8th N. H.; died in Wentworth July 11, 1878.
- Sprague, Charles H. — 3rd Maine Light Art.; 18th Maine Heavy Art.; has lived many years in town and now the last survivor of the war, in Wentworth.

LIST OF MEN FROM WENTWORTH IN WORLD WAR 1917-1918, WITH ABRIDGED SERVICE RECORDS. ALL LISTED BELOW WERE HONORABLY DISCHARGED:

- Boardman, Fay — No. 861642; born Wentworth, age 26; res. Wentworth; enl. Reg. Army, Fort Slocum, N. Y., Sept. 17, '14; served Sig. Corps, private 1st class, corp. Nov. 6, '16, sergt. Sept. 1, '18; discharged June 4, 1920; served in Alaska.
- Clough, Elwin Orrin — No. 1217193, Navy, age 25; enl. May 7, '17, Boston, Mass.; fireman 3rd class; served on U. S. S. *Oklahoma*, *Pennsylvania*, *Missouri*, *Leviathan*, etc.; discharged Nov. 4, '19.
- Clough, Ray Otis — No. 1217237, Navy; born Wentworth, age 24; res. Wentworth; enl. Boston, Mass., Dec. 20, '17; machinist's mate, 1st class dirigible; served at Norfolk, Va., and Pensacola, Fla.; discharged June 10, '19.
- Currier, Lorenzo Gates — No. 5529044; born Tuftonboro, N. H.; res. Wentworth, age 19; inducted Dorchester, Mass., Oct. 15, '18; private, Students Corps, Tufts College; discharged Dec. 9, '18.
- Estes, Charles E. — No. 1733858; inducted March 19, '18; born Meredith, N. H., age 25; private, Co. A, 52 Engrs.; private

- 1st class, May 13, '18; overseas June 7, '18, to Aug. 31, '19; discharged Sept. 6, '19.
- Fellows, Arthur Herbert — No. 4168474; born Thornton, N. H.; inducted Sept. 3, '18; private; age 23; 151 Dep. Brig., C. A. C., Fort Howard, Md.; mechanic; discharged Dec. 17, '18; res. Lakeport, N. H., in Adj. Gen. record.
- Fellows, Carl J. — No. 1742326; inducted April 26, '18; age 25; private; 153 Dep. Brig., 90th Div. Amb. Co. 359, 315 San. Train. Co. I, 358 Inf.; overseas July 6, '18, to June 8, '19; discharged June 12, '19.
- Fellows, Leonard L. — No. 2340261; born West Thornton, N. H., age 28; private and mechanic; enl. Reg. Army, Camp Syracuse, N. Y., July 8, '17, 28th Inf., 20th San. Train; discharged Jan. 30, '19.
- Gove, Lester K. — No. 3159081; born Wentworth, age 28; res. Wentworth; inducted July 24, '18, at Woodsville; service was at Camp Devens, Mass.; discharged December 6, '18.
- Gove, Lewis W. — No. 71941; born Wentworth, age 29; private; inducted Sept. 21, '17; Batt. E, 303 F. A., Co. A, 16th Engrs.; overseas Feb. 27, '18, to April 22, '19; discharged May 5, '19.
- Gove, Martin L. — No. 192842; born Wentworth, age 25; inducted Oct. 2, '17; private; Co. C, 504 Engrs.; Co. B, '59 Engrs., Ry. A. E. F., 64 Trans. Corps; overseas Nov. 26, '17, to April 27, '19; discharged May 12, '19.
- Howard, Hubbard Everett — No. 185093; born Wentworth, age 22; res. Durham, N. H.; enlisted Nat. Guard, Dover, N. H., April 3, '17; private 4th Co., C. A. C., to Aug. 23, '17, Co. D, 101 Eng.; overseas Sept. 26, '17, to Feb. 14, '19; discharged Feb. 28, '19.
- Mackey, James Edward — No. 1923348; age 26; res. Wentworth; enl. Woodsville, Oct. 2, '17; private; served in Co. H, 327th Inf., 82nd Div., Camp Gordon, Atlanta Ga.; discharged Dec. 19, '18.
- McGinnis, Elias R. — No. 3159108; inducted July 24, '18; age 27; farrier 39 Co., 10th Batt., Dep. Brig. Vet. Corps Aux. Remount Dep. 302; discharged July 6, '19.

- McGinnis, Joseph L. — Army; inducted Oct. 21, '18; age 22; private 1st Trk. Co. 60th Amm. Train; discharged Dec. 16, '18.
- Morrison, William Arthur — No. 1266122; enl. Fort Slocum, N. Y., Dec. 19, '17; corp. 9th Co. 2nd Regt. Air Ser. Mech. R. A.; overseas March 4, '18 to June 30, '19; discharged July 12, '19, Camp Devens, Mass.
- Ramsdell, Henry Floyd — No. 1826533, Navy; age 20; enl. June 5, '18 at Portland, Maine; seaman 2nd class; placed on inactive duty Sept. 5, '19.
- Robinson, Frank E. — No. 5533744; born Lowell, Mass, age 22; res. Wentworth. Inducted Woodsville Oct. 21, '18; private, 6th Co., C. A. C., Portsmouth, N. H.; discharged Dec. 9, '18.
- Russell, Fred E. — No. 1733858; born Orford, N. H., age 19; private; enl. in Army at Camp Devens, Mass., May 20, '18, Co. K, 102 Inf.; overseas July 6, '18, to March 2, '19; discharged March 21, '19.
- Smith, Raymond C. — No. 395821; born Gilford, N. H., age 19; res. Wentworth; enl. Reg. Army June 30, '18; private, Batt. B, 62 F. A.; discharged Jan. 10, '19.
- Wright, Charles A. — No. 5533940; born Piermont, age 22; inducted Oct. 21, '18; bugler, Trk. Co., 60 Amm. Train; discharged Dec. 16, '18.
- Wright, Philbrook X. — No. 69973; enl. Natl. Guard April 14, '17; private; Co. G, 103 Inf.; Hdq. Co., 103 Inf.; overseas Sept. 25, '17, to Feb. 11, '19; wounded severely Sept. 22, 1918; discharged June 14, '19, and died of wounds soon after discharge. Wentworth's only casualty in the war.
- Wright, Ray A. — No. 68508; enl. in Natl. Guard April 14, '17; age 20; private Co. G, 103 Inf.; app. corp. July 28, '18; overseas Sept. 25, '17, to April 5, '19; discharged April 28, '19.



## LIST OF NAMES

AS SHOWN BY TAX LISTS, YEARS OF 1800, 1850,  
1900 — SIMEON SMITH'S LIST OF HEADS OF  
FAMILIES WHO HAVE DIED IN TOWN

For the purpose of historical record we will insert here the names\* of all resident taxpayers for the year 1800, as follows, viz.:

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Akin, Ezekiel        | Craig, David           |
| Akin, James          | Currier, David         |
| Akin, John           | Currier, Samuel        |
| Barber, Erastus      | Currier, Samuel, Jr.   |
| Blodget, Thomas      | Dana, John             |
| Bainton, Asa         | Davis, Francis         |
| Bradley, Ebenezer    | Eames, Johnathan, Esq. |
| Brown, Benjamin, Jr. | Eames, Johnathan, Jr.  |
| Brown, Nathan        | Eames, Samuel          |
| Chase, Nicholas      | Eaton, James           |
| Clark, Amos          | Eaton, Job             |
| Clark, Daniel        | Eaton, Moses           |
| Clark, Thomas        | Ellsworth, Jeremiah    |
| Cotton, Benjamin     | Ellsworth, John        |
| Clifford, Isaac      | Ellsworth, Samuel      |
| Clifford, Isaac, Jr. | Ellsworth, Samuel, Jr. |
| Clifford, Moses      | Fifield, David         |
| Clifford, Reuben     | Gardiner, Daniel       |
| Clifford, Timothy    | Gardiner, John         |

\* In all 104 names.

Gibson, David  
Gove, Ebenezer  
Haimes, Mathias  
Haines, John  
Haines, William  
Harriman, James  
Harris, James  
Herd, Amos  
Hidden, Jona  
Hodge, Thomas  
Hooper, Samuel  
Jewett, Aaron  
Jewett, Jeremiah  
Johnson, Samuel  
Kelly, Joseph  
Kezir, Lemuel  
Kimball, Jonathan  
Kimball, Joseph  
Lyster, John  
Martin, Peter  
McClellan, Hugh  
McClellan, Jonathan  
McMurphy, Samuel  
Mun, John  
Nichols, Thomas  
Page, Benjamin  
Page, Enoch  
Page, Ephraim  
Page, John  
Page, Samuel  
Page, Trew  
Palmer, Aaron  
Palmer, John

Peters, Absolom  
Pillsbury, Josiah  
Pillsbury, Merrill  
Putney, Aaron  
Putney, Asa  
Putney, James  
Putney, Joseph  
Rowel, Benjamin  
Rowel, John  
Sanders, David  
Smart, Samuel  
Smith, Asa  
Smith, Benjamin  
Smith, Edward  
Smith, Isaac  
Smith, John  
Smith, Joseph  
Smith, Polly (Widow)  
Smith, Simeon  
Stevens, Calep  
Stevens, Josiah  
Stevens, Paul  
Stevens, Peter  
Stevens, Samuel  
Stewart, Alexander  
Trew, Moses  
Trew, Winthrop  
Weeks, Benjamin  
Weeks, Benjamin, Jr.  
White, William  
Whitcher, Henry  
Whitcher, Reuben  
Willard, Abel

## TAX LIST OF 1850

Inserted for the purpose of historical record and for future reference:

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Aiken, Colburn        | Burnham, Jonathan P.   |
| Aiken, Ezekiel        | Buzel, Con.            |
| Aiken, Hiram          | Caverly, Joseph        |
| Aiken, John V.        | Chase, David           |
| Atwell, Ebenezer      | Cilly, John W.         |
| Atwell, James         | Cinkler, Edwin         |
| Atwell, John          | Clark, Enoch           |
| Avery, Ira            | Clark, John            |
| Bailey, William M.    | Clifford, Absalom      |
| Ball, Sarah (Widow)   | Clifford, Alden        |
| Batchelder, Abram     | Clifford, Calvin W.    |
| Batchelder, Burleigh  | Clifford, Cyrus        |
| Batchelder, Jonathan  | Clifford, Daniel E.    |
| Batchelder, Nathaniel | Clifford, Ira          |
| Batchelder, Ward D.   | Clifford, Isaac        |
| Bean, Susan (Widow)   | Clifford, Luther       |
| Blaisdell, Joshua S.  | Clifford, Lydia        |
| Blanchard, Thomas H.  | Clifford, Mary (Widow) |
| Blodgett, Jeremiah    | Clifford, Mary J.      |
| Blood, Archelaus      | Clifford, Moses        |
| Boyd, David           | Clifford, Peter        |
| Bragg, Daniel         | Clifford, Rawson Z.    |
| Breck, Marshall H. H. | Clifford, Timothy      |
| Brickett, Ralph       | Clough, Charles        |
| Brown, Abel           | Clough, Hazen          |
| Brown, Benjamin       | Clough, Joseph         |
| Brown, John L.        | Clough, William        |
| Brown, Joseph         | Colburn, Joseph        |
| Brown, Josiah P.      | Colburn, Samuel S.     |
| Brown, William        | Colburn, Uriah         |
| Butrix, William       | Colburn, Uriah, Jr.    |

|                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Colby, Samuel S.    | Eames, Robert            |
| Cole, Daniel        | Eames, William           |
| Cole, Daniel Q.     | Eaton, Abigail (Widow)   |
| Cole, Oliver S.     | Eaton, Ezra B.           |
| Crockett, Susan     | Eaton, Jesse             |
| Currier, David D.   | Edson, Jewett D.         |
| Currier, David M.   | Ellis, Chester           |
| Currier, Ezra B.    | Ellsworth, Aaron         |
| Currier, John       | Ellsworth, Bartlett      |
| Currier, Lorenzo W. | Ellsworth, Benjamin      |
| Currier, Samuel     | Ellsworth, Edmund        |
| Currier, Samuel G.  | Ellsworth, Franklin      |
| Currier, Sarah      | Ellsworth, George        |
| Dana, Wolcott       | Ellsworth, Ira           |
| Danforth, John      | Ellsworth, Jeremiah, Jr. |
| Davis, Ebenezer     | Ellsworth, John C.       |
| Davis, Ezekiel      | Ellsworth, John L.       |
| Davis, Francis      | Ellsworth, Lydia (Widow) |
| Davis, Increase S.  | Ellsworth, Oliver        |
| Davis, John S. L.   | Ellsworth, Samuel        |
| Davis, Levi W.      | Ellsworth, Samuel, Jr.   |
| Davis, Lorenzo J.   | Emerton, George W.       |
| Davis, Maynard W.   | Emerton, Ira             |
| Davis, Thomas A.    | Emery, John P.           |
| Davison, Francis F. | Farnsworth, Hiram        |
| Deane, George S.    | Fellows, Samuel          |
| Dole, Stephen       | Fiske, Isaac             |
| Dolloff, Asa        | Flanders, James          |
| Dowling, William    | Fling, Lewis W.          |
| Dustin, Alfred P.   | Foss, Daniel W.          |
| Dustin, Nathaniel   | Foster, Jesse            |
| Eames, Daniel       | Foster, John N.          |
| Eames, Harlow       | Foster, Joseph A.        |
| Eames, Jonathan     | Foster, Joshua           |
| Eames, Osker        | Foster, Joshua, Jr.      |
| Eames, Plato        | Foster, Joshua, 3rd      |



|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Foster, William N.   | Jewett, Parson           |
| Gibson, Eben C.      | Johnson, Cyrus           |
| Glover, Abram N.     | Johnson, Henry           |
| Godfrey, James H.    | Johnson, Proctor E.      |
| Goodell, Asa         | Johnson, Samuel          |
| Goodell, Francis F.  | Johnson, William G.      |
| Goodspeed, Thomas F. | Judkins, Jonathan        |
| Gove, David          | Kelley, Daniel D.        |
| Gove, Ebenezer       | Keys, Rufus C.           |
| Gove, John           | Kezer, Fayette C.        |
| Gove, William        | Kezer, Ferdinand C.      |
| Gove, Winthrop       | Kimball, Addison         |
| Haines, Mahuron      | Kimball, Allen           |
| Haines, Parney       | Kimball, Arthur L.       |
| Haines, William, Jr. | Kimball, Hannah (Widow)  |
| Hall, Jabez H.       | Kimball, James           |
| Hanson, Benjamin     | Kimball, Jonathan (farm) |
| Hanson, Elijah       | Kimball, Joseph          |
| Harriman, James      | Kimball, Nathaniel       |
| Harriman, John       | Kimball, Page            |
| Harris, Clark        | Kimball, Thomas          |
| Harris, Leonard      | Kimball, Wallace         |
| Herbert, Samuel      | Kimball, William         |
| Herbert, Samuel B.   | Kimball, William H.      |
| Hobbs, Alfred        | Kingsbury, Edwin G.      |
| Hobbs, Carey         | Lord, John               |
| Hobbs, Daniel        | Libby, Nathan            |
| Hobbs, Peter C.      | Lund, George W.          |
| Hooper, Daniel       | Lund, Joseph             |
| Hoyt, Charles        | Martin, Benjamin         |
| Hoyt, Peter L.       | McQuestion, William D.   |
| Hoyt, Philip J.      | Mellon, Dustin F.        |
| Hunt, Andrew H.      | Merrill, Daniel          |
| Jewett, Alpha C.     | Merrill, Daniel, Jr.     |
| Jewett, Jeremiah     | Merrill, Harrison B.     |
| Jewett, John         | Merrill, Ephraim         |

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Merrill, Jonathan    | Ring & Tailor Co.     |
| Merrill, Thomas      | Rollins, Edson        |
| Messer, Harrison     | Rollins, Elijah       |
| Messer, Rodney       | Rollins, Orlow        |
| Miller, Robert       | Rowen, Jacob          |
| Moore, Almira H.     | Rowen, Joshua         |
| Moore, William       | Sanders, Daniel       |
| Moulton, Elias       | Sanders, David        |
| Mudgett, John        | Sanders, David, Jr.   |
| Nichols, Moses W.    | Sanders, Elbridge     |
| Nichols, Samuel J.   | Sanders, Henry        |
| Nudd, Benjamin       | Sanders, John         |
| Page, James K.       | Sanders, Oliver       |
| Page, John           | Sanders, Silvester    |
| Page, John, Heirs of | Sargent, Cyrus        |
| Page, Joseph         | Sargent, James        |
| Page, Mary           | Sargent, J. Everett   |
| Page, Michael W.     | Sargent, Samuel       |
| Page, Samuel         | Savage, Joseph        |
| Page, Zebina         | Sawyer, James         |
| Parker, Elisha       | Sawyer, Rufus         |
| Peabody, John F. A.  | Simpson, Odanthus     |
| Philbrick, Samuel    | Sleeper, Peter A.     |
| Phillips, Jason A.   | Smart, Eunice (Widow) |
| Piersons, Thomas     | Smart, James          |
| Pillsbury, Aaron M.  | Smart, Jeremiah       |
| Pillsbury, Albert    | Smart, Samuel         |
| Pillsbury, Daniel    | Smith, David          |
| Pillsbury, John      | Smith, Elbridge G.    |
| Pillsbury, Richard   | Smith, Jefferson      |
| Prescott, Jeremiah   | Smith, Jeremiah C.    |
| Putney, Aaron        | Smith, Jeremiah H.    |
| Putney, Joseph       | Smith, John B.        |
| Quimby, John         | Smith, Joseph         |
| Quincy, Josiah       | Smith, Sewell         |
| Ring, Daniel         | Smith, William        |

Spaulding, Putnam  
 Spaulding, Saul  
 Stanyan, David D.  
 Stanyan, Newell  
 Stanyan, Newell, Jr.  
 Stetson, Jesse  
 Stetson, Thomas  
 Stevens, Albert G.  
 Stevens, John  
 Stevens, John O.  
 Stevens, Rufus  
 Stevens, Ruth J.  
 Stevens, Saul S.  
 Stevens, Walter  
 Swain, Ebenezer  
 Taylor, Augustus E.  
 Tenney, Asa P.  
 Thistle, William  
 Tilton, Amos  
 True, Elbridge  
 True, Winthrop  
 Webster, Edw. K.  
 Webster, Hiram  
 Webster, Lorenzo D.  
 Whicher, Aaron  
 Whicher & Fiske  
 Whicher, John  
 Whicher, Lyman P.  
 Whicher, Reuben  
 Whicher, Reuben, 2nd  
 Whipple, Alonzo A.  
 Whipple, Thomas, Heirs of  
 Whiteman, John J.

Whiteman, William J.  
 Whitmore, L. B.  
 Wolcott, Oliver  
 Woodbury, Benjamin  
 Woodman, James M.

## NON-RESIDENTS

Bradbury, Joseph  
 Burns, Samuel  
 Clark, Lyman G.  
 Clough, Nathaniel  
 Currier, David, Heirs of  
 Davis, Bliss  
 Davis, Nathan  
 Fitz, Thomas J.  
 French, James  
 Gibson, David  
 Greeley, Nathaniel  
 Hall, Joshua  
 Martin, Richard  
 Morrill, Samuel D.  
 Moses, Joseph, Jr.  
 Moses, Thomas B.  
 Page, Joseph  
 Page, Samuel  
 Pillsbury, Richard  
 Scales, Steven  
 Simpson, William W.  
 Stevens, Ebenezer, Jr.  
 Tiltotson, Daniel  
 Tolman, William  
 True, William, or Ruth White  
 Worthen, Ezekiel

No total footings are entered in the Selectmen's Record Book. It is therefore a hard matter to show

what the valuation of the town was at this time. There is not the least reason to doubt, however, that the amount of real property held in the town was far larger in 1850 than in 1930.

The record shows there was taxed, in 1850, live stock as follows:

|             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| Horses..... | 136   |
| Cattle..... | 923   |
| Sheep.....  | 1,308 |

The amount of money raised was \$2,846.50. Of this \$717.50 was a highway tax and paid in labor, leaving a balance of about \$2,129 to be paid in money.

The tax rate for the year appears to have been \$1.50.

### TAX LIST OF 1900

Inserted for purpose of historical record.

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Aiken, Mark L.     | Blodgett, Susan, Heirs of |
| Atwood, Vernon E.  | Blood, Horatio C.         |
| Avery, Frank       | Boardman, Asa             |
| Barton, Frank      | Boardman, Elbridge        |
| Batchelder, Jane   | Boardman, John            |
| Battis, Oliver     | Boston and Maine R. R.    |
| Bedell, Ellen S.   | Bowen, Harry F.           |
| Bedell, Joseph     | Bowen, Hiram M.           |
| Bemis, William     | Bowles, George H.         |
| Berry, Henry W.    | Boyd, George W.           |
| Bickford, Henry A. | Bradbury, Charles         |
| Blanchard, Sarah   | Breck, Joseph S.          |
| Blodgett, Elias M. | Breck, Ned M.             |
| Blodgett, Fred W.  | Briggs, Frank H.          |



|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Brown, Abbie A.           | Clark, Amos H.       |
| Brown, Alphonse           | Clifford, Annie E.   |
| Brown, Anna M.            | Clifford, Charles W. |
| Brown, Asa A.             | Clifford, Cyrus      |
| Brown, Elmer              | Clifford, Hannah     |
| Brown, Eugene M.          | Clifford, Lewis H.   |
| Brown, George E.          | Clough, Charles      |
| Brown, George H.          | Clough, Dora N.      |
| Brown, George Herbert     | Clough, Francis      |
| Brown, Harry J.           | Clough, Frank G.     |
| Brown, Hubert             | Clough, George W.    |
| Brown, James B.           | Clough, Orrin O.     |
| Brown, John N.            | Colburn, Caroline    |
| Brown, Marshall           | Colburn, Etta M.     |
| Brown, Orvil              | Colburn, Job         |
| Brown, William W.         | Colby, Forrest D.    |
| Bryar, Leon M.            | Colby, Lemira C.     |
| Burnham, Albert           | Cole, Nettie         |
| Burnham, Isaac M.         | Connor, Stephen C.   |
| Burton, Thomas            | Cook, Gardner & Son  |
| Butts, Mary E.            | Cooley, Henry B.     |
| Butts, William H.         | Cooley, Pauline L.   |
| Campbell, Henry W.        | Craig, Albert E.     |
| Cass, Kay                 | Crane, Charles L.    |
| Caverly, Joseph, Heirs of | Crane, Sidney        |
| Caverly, Mrs. M. L.       | Crane, William       |
| Chamberlain, S. E. E.     | Crosby, Isaac S.     |
| Chandler, Edward L.       | Currier, John P.     |
| Chase, Amos L.            | Currier, Lorenzo W.  |
| Chase, Andy J.            | Currier, Lydia       |
| Chase, Betsey             | Currier, Mary        |
| Chase, Charles            | Daines, Byron P.     |
| Chase, Henry              | Darling, Arthur A.   |
| Chase, Simeon             | Darling, Charles F.  |
| Chase, Warren G.          | Darling, Frank A.    |
| Cheney, Edward            | Darling, Thomas W.   |

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Davis, Albert L.             | Estes, Thomas E., Heirs of |
| Davis, Ephraim               | Fellows, Benjamin          |
| Davis, Frank A.              | Flanders, Fred S.          |
| Davis, John A.               | Flanders, George           |
| Davis, John C.               | Flanders, William A.       |
| Davis, Tirzah                | Fletcher, Frank E.         |
| Davis, William H.            | Foster, Ben B.             |
| Dean, Mary M.                | Foster, Charles A.         |
| Dexter, William G.           | Foster, Fred               |
| Douse, Asa                   | Foster, John B.            |
| Dow, David                   | Foster, Joshua             |
| Dow, Levi                    | Foster, Joshua E.          |
| Downing, Betsey G.           | Foster, Judith M.          |
| Downing, Cyrus               | Goodell, Frank E.          |
| Downing, Eugene C.           | Goodwin, David L.          |
| Downing, Fred                | Gove, Alna                 |
| Downing, George N.           | Gove, Charles T.           |
| Downing, Luther, Heirs of    | Gove, David                |
| Downing, Martha J., Heirs of | Gove, Ebenezer             |
| Downing, Myron               | Gove, Frank R.             |
| Downing, Pethuel             | Griffin, Edwin R.          |
| Eaton, Clarence A.           | Hall, Burgis A.            |
| Eaton, David N.              | Hall, Charlotte            |
| Eaton, Franklin              | Hall, Susan                |
| Eaton, James W.              | Hammond, Sarah             |
| Ellsworth, Elbridge          | Hardy, Alden               |
| Ellsworth, Freeman D.        | Harris, Eugene             |
| Ellsworth, George E.         | Harris, Moses              |
| Ellsworth, Henry B.          | Heath, Clarence            |
| Ellsworth, James M.          | Heaton, Alfred N.          |
| Ellsworth, Nelson Henry      | Herbert, Samuel            |
| Ellsworth, Simon             | Hodgkins, Alfred           |
| Ellsworth, Winnie J.         | Howard, Augusta            |
| Emery, James H.              | Howard, George W.          |
| Emery, Mary A.               | Howard, Susan              |
| Estes, Thomas                | Huckins, Thomas            |

- Hoyt, Peter L., Heirs of  
Jessamine, Alma  
Johnson, Carl S.  
Johnson, Carrie M.  
Johnson, Neal D.  
Johnson, William W.  
Jones, William M.  
Kenneson, Charles F.  
Kenneson, Frank H.  
Kenneson, Mary Ann  
Kimball, Amos C.  
Kimball, Arthur J.  
Kimball, Walter F.  
Kimball, Elsenä  
Knight & Crosby  
Knight, Ezra C.  
Libbey, Benjamin  
Libbey, Fred E.  
Libbey, George W.  
Libbey, Samuel M.  
Libbey, Walter S.  
Libbey, William E.  
Livingston, Lafayette  
Livingston, Wheaton  
Lund, James H.  
Lyon, Elmer E.  
Lyon, John W.  
Maloon, Eliz., Heirs of  
Marston, Abbie  
Marston, John D.  
Martin, Mary J.  
Mason, Charles E.  
McGinnis, Elias  
McLoughlin, John  
Merrill, Amanda L.  
Merrill, Charles  
Merrill, Charles H.  
Merrill, Joseph W.  
Merrill, Laura C.  
Merrill, Van  
Miller, Kate  
Mooney, William F.  
Moore, Lorenzo D.  
Morey, Hiram D.  
Moses, Andrew J.  
Mosher, Myron  
Moulton, Charles K.  
Nason, Charles P.  
Page, John A.  
Page, Mary E.  
Page, Mary F.  
Page, Ovando G.  
Paper Co. (Int.)  
Parker, Peter  
Payer, Charles E.  
Pease, Horace B.  
Phillips, Charles W.  
Pillsbury, Dan. C.  
Pillsbury, Ellen  
Piper, Walter E.  
Plummer, George  
Plummer, George F.  
Poquette, Emery  
Powers, Calvin B.  
Radford, Fred  
Radford, William  
Ramsay, Eliz. A.  
Ramsay, John  
Ramsay, Hiram  
Randall, Alba C.  
Randall, Francis A.  
Randall, Willie O.

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Reed, Frank E.              | Wells, Henry P.               |
| Rich, Fred J.               | Whipple, Walter G.            |
| Robinson, Charles D.        | Whitcher, Albert E.           |
| Rodgers, Terry J., Heirs of | Whitcher, Burt O.             |
| Rollins, Amos               | Whitcher, Charles C.          |
| Rollins, George H.          | Whitcher, Harry A.            |
| Rollins, Hiram B.           | Whitcher & Jessaman           |
| Rollins, William H.         | Whitcher, John A.             |
| Sanborn, George H.          | Whitcher, Lyman P.            |
| Sanders, Alonzo             | Whitcher, Max W.              |
| Sanders, John               | Whitcher, Ovando              |
| Sargent, John H.            | Whitcher, Sarah               |
| Sherburn, Gardner D.        | Whitcher, Willis J., Heirs of |
| Sherburn, George            | Whittemore, Mary A.           |
| Sherwell, Edwin C.          | Williamson, Lucetta           |
| Shute, Ardella, Heirs of    | Wright, Fred L.               |
| Shute, Calvin T.            | Wright, Gilford               |
| Shute, Herman H.            | Wright, Tilden P.             |
| Simpson, Herman             |                               |
| Simpson, Willard M.         | NON-RESIDENTS                 |
| Smith, Granville            | Blaisdell, Joshua, Heirs of   |
| Stetson, George E.          | Blake, Isaac                  |
| Stickney, Frank L.          | Bradbury, Nancy               |
| Stone, Emely M.             | Chase, Warren G.              |
| Sturdevant, George L.       | Conant, James S.              |
| Tenney, Edward G.           | Cotton, Wilbur                |
| Tilton, Sidney D.           | Dale, Stephen, Heirs of       |
| Turner, Charles             | Fitts, Thomas J., Heirs of    |
| Turner, Harry M.            | Gale, Andrew F.               |
| Wakefield, Wilfred P.       | Gardner Cook & Son            |
| Waldron, Charles            | Glover, Munroe                |
| Waldron, Dan. C.            | Goodnow, Nathan               |
| Waldron, Loren              | Granite State Mica Co.        |
| Waldron, Martha B.          | Guertin, Rose                 |
| Webster, Henry              | Hall, Lewis                   |
| Webster, Lorenzo D.         | Hamblett, Viola A.            |



|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Hoyt, Caleb S.      | Mead, Oliver W.           |
| Hurd, Joseph        | Monahan, E. M. and Martin |
| James, George B.    | Park, William R., Jr.     |
| Jewell, James       | Rich, Dewer               |
| Kellam, Frank P.    | Wallace, Gideon           |
| Keniston, Samuel J. | Warner, Mrs. H. M.        |
| Loomis, E. G.       | Weeks, Enoch R.           |
| McCarthy, Jeremiah  | Weeks, Joseph, Heirs of   |

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| GEORGE W. BOYD   | } <i>Selectmen.</i> |
| WILLIAM E. LIBBY |                     |
| JOHN W. LYON     |                     |

Simeon Smith's list compiled about 1850 of heads of families who have died in town. The list gives no dates. Original furnished by Mr. Charles T. Gove.

I, the subscriber, Simeon Smith of Wentworth, do undertake at this time to give an account of the heads of families that have died in this town since it was first settled to the best of my recollection.

Alphabetically arranged:

|                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aiken, Colburn's wife      | Chamberlain, Jonathan's wife |
| Aiken, Ezekiel and wife    | Chase, Nicholas              |
| Aiken, James               | Chase, Samuel's wife         |
| Aiken, John and wife       | Clark, Daniel's wife         |
| Aiken, John, Jr., and wife | Clark, Jonathan and wife     |
| Bean, Joseph               | Clark, Patience, Mrs.        |
| Blodgett, Thomas's wife    | Clark, Thomas and wife       |
| Bodwell, Daniel's wife     | Clifford, Isaac and wife     |
| Boyd, John and wife        | Clifford, John               |
| Brown, Benjamin            | Clifford, Nathaniel, Jr.     |
| Brown, John L.'s wife      | Clifford, Nathaniel's wife   |
| Brown, Moses and wife      | Clifford, Reuben             |
| Brown, Nathan's wife       | Clifford, Young's wife       |
| Butrick, Mrs. Ephriam      | Clifford, Zechariah          |
| Caverly, Mrs., aged 90     | Clough, Nathaniel's wife     |

|                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Coburn, Lemuel's wife           | Gove, Enoch's wife             |
| Colby, Samuel S.'s wife         | Gove, Oliver B.                |
| Cross, Experience's two wives   | Gove, Winthrop's wife          |
| Currier, Aaron and wife         | Hadley, Mrs.                   |
| Currier, Rev. Samuel and wife   | Harris, James's second wife    |
| Davis, Francis and wife         | Harris, Leonard's wife         |
| Davis, Moses' wife              | Haynes, John, aged 92          |
| Davis, Oliver's wife            | Haynes, Matthias's wife,       |
| Dean, George's wife             | Martha                         |
| Dearborn, Peter's wife          | Haynes, William's wife         |
| Eames, Rev. Jonathan and wife   | Heath, Ebenezer's wife         |
| Eames, Jonathan, Esqr.          | Heath, William's wife          |
| Eames, Jonathan, 2nd            | Hidden, Ebenezer               |
| Ellsworth, Iras's wife          | Hobbs, Joshua, aged 94         |
| Ellsworth, John                 | Hobbs, Joshua, Jr.             |
| Ellsworth, John L.'s wife       | Hoopper, Samuel and wife       |
| Ellsworth, Samuel and two wives | Hoyt, Abner's wife             |
| Emery, James                    | Hoyt, John                     |
| Eaton, Ezra B.'s wife           | Jewett, Aaron, Esqr., and wife |
| Eaton, Job                      | Jewett, Jeremiah               |
| Eaton, Moses and first wife     | Johnson, Cyrus's wife          |
| Eaton, Moses, 2nd               | Johnson, Samuel's wife         |
| Farmer, Mrs.                    | Judkins, Joseph T.'s wife      |
| Fisk, Isaac's wife              | Keith, Caleb, Esqr.            |
| Foster, David's wife            | Kelley, Joseph and wife        |
| Foster, James and wife          | Kezer, Lemuel and two wives    |
| Foster, Joshua's wife           | Kimball, Horace                |
| Gage, Mrs.                      | Kimball, John and wife         |
| Gardner, John                   | Kimball, Joseph                |
| Gile, Eliphalet                 | Killed by a tree.              |
| Gile, Mrs.                      | Kimball, Joseph and two wives  |
| Goodell, Asa's wife             | Knowlton, Benjamin             |
| Goodwin, D. B.'s wife           | Knowlton, Philip               |
| Gove, Ebenezer and two wives    | Lawrence, David                |
|                                 | Leicester, John's wife         |
|                                 | Little, Moses                  |

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Marston, John                          | Simpson, Joseph's wife                 |
| McClellan, Jane, aged 101              | Smart, Samuel                          |
| McClellan, Jonathan, Maj.              | Smith, Benjamin and wife               |
| Merrill, Mrs. Eleanor                  | Smith, David                           |
| Morrill, Mrs.*                         | Smith, Edward's first wife             |
| Page, Benjamin, Esqr.                  | Smith, Isaac, 77, and wife, 93         |
| Page, Enoch, Esqr.                     | Smith, Joseph and wife                 |
| Page, Enoch, Maj., and two<br>wives    | Smith, Simeon and wife                 |
| Page, Ephraim and wife                 | Stevens, Caleb and wife                |
| Page, John, Capt., and wife            | Stevens, Josiah                        |
| Page, Joseph's two wives               | Stevens, Peter, Dea.                   |
| Palmer, Aaron's first wife             | Stuart, Alexander                      |
| Perce, James                           | Swane, Mrs.                            |
| Peters, Absalom's (Gen.) first<br>wife | True, John and wife                    |
| Pillsbury, Josiah and wife             | True, Moses and wife                   |
| Pillsbury, Richard                     | True, Winthrop's first wife            |
| Froze to death.                        | Waldron, Nathaniel's first wife        |
| Prescott, Jeremiah's first wife        | Webster, Daniel                        |
| Putney, Aaron and two wives            | Webster, Mrs.                          |
| Putney, Asa                            | Whicher, Aaron's wife                  |
| Found dead in the pond.                | Whicher, David and wife                |
| Putney, Asa and wife                   | Whicher, Reuben, Jr.                   |
| Putney, James and wife                 | Whicher, Reuben, Capt., and<br>wife    |
| Putney, Joseph and first wife          | Whipple, Thomas, Dr., and<br>wife      |
| Rollins, Elijah's first wife           | White, William, Maj., and wife         |
| Rowen, John                            | White, William, Jr., Maj., and<br>wife |
| Rowen, John, Jr.'s first wife          | Wolcott, Oliver's first wife           |
| Rowen, Joshua                          | Woodbury, Benjamin's wife              |
| Killed by a tree.                      | Worcester, Samuel                      |
| Sanders, David and wife                | Wright, Isaac                          |
| Sanders, Henry's first wife            | Hung himself.                          |
| Sawyer, Franklin                       |  |

\* Her husband was the first blacksmith in this town.

THE END

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